The Voice

The Student Press of Westfield State College

Volume XIII **September 7, 2007** **Issue I**

10 things every college kid should have

1. **Ear plugs** - to drown out the noise from the students who like to crank up their subwoofers at 3 a.m.
2. **Air freshners** - EVERYTHING starts to smell eventually
3. **Shower shoes** - don't even consider entering the bathroom without foot protection
4. **Power Adaptors** - better to be safe than sorry. If you don't have the right cord, you may end up without your computer or iPod for a week (which feels like an eternity)
5. **Ducttape** - the 'all purpose' solution
6. **Extra sheets** - since you'll rarely find time for laundry every couple of weeks
7. **USB Flash Drive** - a student's best friend. Stores pictures, music and files for school
8. **Cleaning supplies** - guys: a girl is much more likely to enter your room if it's clean
9. **Bottle opener** - enough said
10. **Door hangers** - you'll get more use out of a towel thats been hanging on a hook, rather than collecting dust on the floor

Westfield State College freshmen faced tougher competition this year

Westfield State College will began its 2007-2008 academic year on Tuesday, Sept. 4, with a slightly leaner freshman class — 1,000, down from 1,200 last year. Freshmen faced tougher competition this year with the college accepting only about half of its applicants.

"Our target was 1,000 freshmen and 250 transfer students, so the college became more selective than in previous years to make that goal," said Robert Bristow, associate vice president for enrollment management. "Nationally the average acceptance rate for four-year colleges is 70 percent. This year Westfield State's acceptance rate was 52 percent."

While applications have continued to increase, classroom space has reached maximum capacity and the college sought to avoid last year's campus housing squeeze, Bristow said.

"We just don't have the physical plant to accommodate more students," he said.

"In prior years, our acceptance rate was averaging between 60 to 64 percent," said Michelle Mattie, associate dean for Student Support Services. "However, our applications have been rising. From the fall of 1999 to the fall of 2007 our applicant pool has increased by 34.5 percent."

This year's freshman application pool was 11 percent higher than last year's, Mattie said. This year's applications totaled 5,440, and the college accepted 2,845.

The result is a class with an average grade point average of 3.13 and average combined SAT score of 1,030, Mattie said.

The incoming students are also more diverse than in previous years, with 11.1 percent being students of color, compared to 7.1 percent last year — reflecting the college's continuing efforts to increase diversity on campus, Mattie said.

The applicants are primarily from Massachusetts — 91 percent — with 9 percent from out of state, including 4.5 percent from Connecticut.

Total enrollment of day students is expected to be 4,100, as it was last year, with 2,570 living on campus. Jon Conlogue, director of Residential Life, said that is slightly less than the more the 2,600 residential students accepted last fall.

Renovations to Scanlon Hall this year will help the college accommodate the students on campus and avoid last year's situation in which 45 students were housed for the fall semester at the Econo-Lodge Inn & Suites in Westfield, Conlogue said.

The college's day student population reached record numbers during the past two years, made possible by the opening of a new 400-bed residence hall. However, applications quickly caught up with the college accommodations, Bristow said.

"There continues to be a pressing need for high quality and affordable education," he said.

Students were welcomed to both the campus and the region by various events during the college's traditional "Welcome Week" which started last Sunday. The events are organized by Residential Life and are aimed helping the students get to know each other and the many resources that area communities have to offer, including stores and other businesses.

Besides orientation meetings, events include bus trips to area stores and attractions, entertainment by Dave Binder, Project Mayhem, Maverick West, comedian Eric O'Shea and hypnotist Dan LaRosa. Other events will include a "Westfield Idol 2007" talent show, as well as games, social gatherings and movies.

Westfield State appoints new director of development

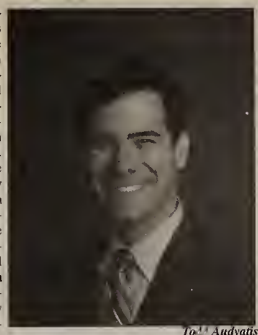
Todd Audyatis of Longmeadow has been named director of development at Westfield State College. Audyatis, a Westfield State alumnus, returns to the college after serving as major gifts officer at Bridgewater State College.

He has also served in the Government Relations Department at MassMutual Financial Group in Springfield, and worked in fundraising at Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

In his new role, Audyatis will oversee advancement services, as well as fundraising for the Westfield Fund, major gifts and planned giving.

A native of Raynham, Mass., Audyatis graduated from Westfield State in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in political science. His first jobs after graduation were as an admissions counselor and residence hall director at the college.

He also met his wife, the former Joanne Stowell, at Westfield State, where she was working as a residential hall director. She graduated with a master's degree in clinical psychology in 1998. She now has a private mental health therapy practice.



Todd Audyatis

The couple has two children and another on the way.

They not only met on campus, but also lived together in Lammers Hall while Joanne was director of the residence hall.

Audyatis went on to earn a master's degree in political science at the University of Massachusetts in 2000, and has nearly finished his doctorate there.

Audyatis said his work experience has included a prestigious private school and the private corporate world, but he feels most at home in the public sector.

"I really wanted to stay in public higher education," he said. "For me, as a first-generation college student, public education offered a tremendous opportunity. My time at Westfield State unalterably changed my life — for the better."

"Public higher education is one of the last remaining vestiges of the American dream," he said. "When you look at the fact that 40 percent of our students are first-time college students from their families, it illustrates the importance of these institutions. Many of these are students for whom the cost of a private college is out of the question."

"Westfield State has played a crucial role in educating many of the state's teachers and law enforcement officers," he said. "These people are the bedrock of our communities in the commonwealth."

Public higher education remains behind many private institutions in fundraising, Audyatis said. "It has been only out of necessity that public higher education in Massachusetts is just starting to realize the transformative power of private philanthropy."

"People assume state colleges are completely supported by the state," he said. "In fact, only about a third of our budget comes from the state. Most of the rest of our cost is on the backs of the students and their families in tuition and fees."

Audyatis said that, as a product of public higher education, he is happy to have the opportunity to make the case for its continued support among the business community and alumni.

Check out the Welcome Week 2007 schedule on page 4

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Campus Calendar page 8

Survey results detail what top entry level employers want most

CollegeGrad.com releases top hiring criteria for college grads

STATE COLLEGE, PA--(HR Marketer)

CollegeGrad.com, the #1 Entry Level Job Site, released the results of its survey on Aug. 8, on what employers want most in hiring new college grads.

Which is more important to entry level employers – the college you graduated from? Your GPA? Or what you majored in? According to the survey results, the answer may surprise you.

The survey results indicate that 42% of employers surveyed ranked a student's major as the top priority for hiring consideration. This is up from 37% in 2006. Interviewing skills and a student's internships and experience, ranked second and third.

"College students shouldn't be worried about whether they attended the right college or maintained perfect grades," said Brian Krueger, President of CollegeGrad.com. "The results of this survey clearly show that these are not what most employers are looking at first."

What does it mean that employers first look at a candidate's major? Employers explain that in initial hiring consideration, they are first concerned with a set of necessary skills.

"We are looking for candidates that possess the technical and enabling skills required to be an effective client service delivery professional," said Blane Ruschak, National Director of Campus Recruiting for KPMG.

Also critical to employers is to find candidates passionate about their potential industry. Randy Goldberg, National Recruiting Director for Hyatt Hotels explains that finding job seekers excited about their future position occurs most often when the candidate's major matches their prospective field of employment.

"Most of our entry level management positions are not your typical 9 to 5 positions," said Goldberg, "so seeking out candidates with hospitality schooling and experience is a key ingredient to achieving a rewarding career with Hyatt."

Employers repeatedly state that in order for students to separate themselves from candidates with the same major, students must be able to relate past experiences to the current job opportunity in an interview setting. Also important is to demonstrate a range of transferable soft skills to complement the skills associated with their major.

Krueger points out that "If a candidate is comfortable not only gathering and analyzing technical data, but also effectively communicating the results in presentations, lectures, and one-on-one, this is much more valuable to a prospective employer than those who can only crunch the numbers. And those who can demonstrate this ability in an interview will stand out from among their peers."

Employers seeking candidates with less technical majors also point to versatility as an important professional skill. "We are looking for candidates to be in a continuous learning mode, have a positive attitude and demonstrate a global perspective in their thinking and actions," said Ruschak.

In addition to Ruschak's list of top soft skills for KPMG, other employers would also include the importance of communication skills, dedication, integrity, enthusiasm, creativity and adaptability: According to Vicki Decker, Director of Career Services for Winona State University, "These skills result in successful candidates and are not necessarily tied to any given major." Additionally, they can all be summed up in one word: passion.

Passion about the opportunity is important to employers because it cannot be taught or faked. When employers recognize that a student's enthusiasm and excitement about the job is genuine, that student will most often get the job.

To demonstrate enthusiasm during the interview, Krueger advises providing examples of how passion has had a positive impact on results. "If you can show an employer in your words, actions and past behaviors that you have true passion for achieving excellence, you can and will be chosen over the superstar."

The information was gathered while compiling the list of more than 500 Top Entry Level Employers for 2007. Employers were asked to rank criteria in order of importance for hiring consideration. The full survey is available at: http://www.collegegrad.com/survey s/topemployers/.

Following are the overall survey results:

#1 - The student's major (42%)
#2 - The student's interviewing skills (25%)
#3 - The student's internship/experience (16%)
#4 - Other miscellaneous qualifications (10%)
#5 - The student's computer skills (3%)
#6 - The student's personal appearance (2%)
#7 - The student's GPA (1%)
#8 - The college the student graduated from (1%)

About CollegeGrad.com:
CollegeGrad.com is the #1 entry level job site on the Internet and is the leader in the field of entry level job search. Established in 1995, CollegeGrad.com has been conducting the Top Entry Level Employers Survey since 1997.

Editor's Desk



So, it is officially fall semester. I'm still in denial that summer is over. However, I mine has been over for awhile.

While my friends enjoyed going to the beach and out for drinks at night, I spent my time doing work for my summer classes, enduring slave labor at my job and organizing the newspaper staff.

I was Managing Editor last year. I was one of only two people on staff. As of three days before classes begin, I have a full staff who, by the end of the year, I will most likely be forever endebted to. I love my position as the Editor-in-Chief, but I know this job is not something I can do on my own, and that the students and staff who READ the newspaper are a huge part of all of this too.

I have a lot of plans for the paper, including layout changes, picture spreads (of photos sent in by you guys!!), more student written columns etc. Any suggestions/ideas are welcome! I want to have the paper include something interesting for everybody, so student/faculty feedback is really encouraged.

Also, we are always looking for more reporters, columnists, editors etc. So if you are interested, please stop by the office: Ely 248 or send an email to TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu.

As a senoir, this year is going to be a hittersweet experience for me. As excited as I am to finally be a senior, I'm also petrified that a year from now, I'm going to be joining the men and women of the 'real world.' Until then, however, I plan on making the most out of my final year in college.

So, welcome back everyone! Have fun and be safe!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Westfield State College
Bookstore

STORE HOURS

Back to School Hours
Sun, Sept 2nd 10am-5 pm
Mon, Sept 3rd 8:30am-5pm
Tues, Sept 4th- Thurs, Sept 6th 8:30am-8pm
Fri, Sept 7th 8:30am-4pm
Sat, Sept 8th 11am-3pm
Mon, Sept 10th &.Tues, Sept 11th 8:30am-8pm

Regular Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 5pm
Friday 8:30-am-3pm
Saturday 11am-3pm
Sunday closed

Westfield State College
Department of Public Safety

*** The Student Security Unit operates a shuttle van making rounds of campus every 15-20 minutes.**
*** The time of each round is approximate and may vary due to weather conditions, traffic and the number of riders.**
*** The shuttle route begins and ends in the South Lot parking area.**

The shuttle hours of operation are:

Monday thru Friday 3:00 PM until 2:00 AM

Saturday and Sunday 5:00 PM until 2:00 AM



Welcome Back!

Dear Westfield State College Students:

Welcome to Westfield State College for the 2007-2008 academic year. This year promises to be very exciting at the College. Many activities have been planned for all students to participate in.

To begin this eventful year, many activities have been planned for Welcome Week: a hypnotist, bus transportation to Wal-Mart, and comedian Eric O'Shea to name just a few of the exciting programs.

If your interests include sports, the athletic teams will be competing in football, field hockey, soccer, cross-country and volleyball; everyone is welcome to attend the games and show support for the teams and athletes. The Athletics department also offers an intramural recreational program with over 30 different sports.

The College will once again offer the popular Guest Lecture Series, offered free of charge to all attendees, which hosts national and international speakers discussing a variety of topics.

If you are interested in joining a club, stop in at the Student Government Association and receive information on over 50 clubs at Westfield State. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of leadership opportunities by contacting Residential Life, Campus Center, Campus Voice and your academic departments.

Most importantly, we hope you will excel in your academic studies at the College. If you need assistance with these matters, please visit the Academic Achievement Center and Writing Center in Parenzo Hall or ask your professors for assistance. Also, Student Affairs departments are available to assist you with various services. These offices are listed below:

Athletics – Woodward Center	x5405
Campus Center – Ely 131	x5648
Career Services – Lammers Annex	x5206
Counseling Center – Lammers Annex	x5790
Health Services – Scanlon Annex	x5415
Judicial Affairs – Ely 146	x5403
Public Safety – Public Safety Building	x5262
Residential Life – Scanlon Annex	x5402

Lastly, I hope you will take this opportunity to develop your occupational pursuits by participating in Career Services programs and practicums/internships offered through your academic department. These endeavors will greatly improve your opportunities for employment upon graduation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to visit me in Ely Building, Room 236.

Sincerely,
Ms. Susan J. LaMontagne
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

12th Annual Criminal Justice Career Fair

9/26/07

Westfield State College will host the 12th Annual Criminal Justice Career Fair, on Wednesday, September 26th, from 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM in the Woodward Center. The fair is considered one of the premier career events in New England for students and alumni interested in the fields of law enforcement and criminal justice. Westfield State College enrolls approximately 800 undergraduate and graduate students in Criminal Justice Studies.

Over 100 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies will be on hand to share career and employment information.

The fair is free and open to the public. Area high school and college students considering a career in the Criminal Justice field are encouraged to attend. Employers/agencies can register online at the following address: www.myinterfase.com/westfield/employer.

For more information, contact the Career Center, Westfield State College, 413 572-5206.

Reading & Writing Center

The Reading and Writing Center helps students, staff, and faculty at Westfield State College further develop their understanding of **reading, writing, and critical thinking.** Whether you're tackling a biology textbook, preparing to take the Massachusetts teacher certification exam (MTEL), trying to understand Shakespeare's diction, beginning an essay, polishing a resume, or developing a reading or writing assignment for your class, come see us. **Our staff of highly trained reading and writing tutors look forward to working with you.**

Reading and Writing Center Hours

Monday	9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Welcome Week 2007

Friday, September 7, 2007

SCAVENGER HUNT!
5:30 - 7:30pm (Ely Main Lounge)
Your Mission, should you choose to accept it:
Hidden amongst the campus are numbered poker chips, each corresponding with a specific prize. Your objective is to locate a poker chip and return it to Prize Headquarters, centrally located in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. All participants are limited to one token a piece!

Football Game (Turf)
7:00pm
Students will be encouraged to attend the sporting event to show support for our team.

Psychic Fair
9pm - 1am (Ely Main Lounge)
Ever wonder what your future has in store for you? Curious about the mysteries that lie just ahead? Then come join us at our Psychic Fair where you will have the opportunity to meet with expert Tarot Card Readers, Palm Readers, and Hand Writing Analysts...all of whom are ready to give you that glimpse you so desire!

Saturday, September 8, 2007

Room Decor Novelty Fair
8pm - 12am (Ely Main Lounge)
Wondering what you should do with this new space you've just moved into? Well, grab your roommate and come check out our Novelty Fair! Several options will be available ranging from Photo Key Chains to showcase you, you and your roommate, and school/hall pride, and there will be all kinds of free stuff for you to spruce up your room!

Opening Movie Event
10pm - 12am (Ely Main Lounge)
Come kick back and enjoy a major summer blockbuster that you may have missed playing on the big screen in the Ely Main Lounge. Refreshments will be served!

Sunday, September 9, 2007

Off-Campus Excursion!
11am-7pm (Please contact Jason Harish at jharish@wsc.ma.edu to reserve a seat.)
Looking to get off campus and enjoy a quality afternoon with your friends? Join us for a thrilling afternoon at Six Flags in Aqawam, MA. Transportation will be provided for this event and tickets will be offered on a first come first serve basis at an extremely discounted rate...HURRY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!!

CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL

Westfield State College
Circle K

WSC's Community Service Club since 1970
All Students welcomed

First meeting Wednesday, September 12th 7:00 pm Ely 130

Campus Center Programming Presents:
a Constitution Day Event

Monday, September 17, 2007
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Ely Main Lounge

A video about the creation of the constitution will be played, and there will be a table with copies of the constitution and other information available.



BROWN BAG BINGO!
Ely Main Lounge
★★★★★
Meet Your Friends!
Fun & Prizes!

- ✓ 11P Friday, 9/21
- ✓ 11P Friday, 10/26
- ✓ 11P Friday 11/16
- ✓ 11P Friday, 12/7

Coffee House

What's better than hanging out with your friends and hearing good music? **FREE COFFEE!!!** That's what's better!

On the first Wednesday of every month, CAB sponsors a Coffee House in the Ely Main Lounge where students are able to showcase their talents - from music to poetry and dance to other great talents.





THANKS TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Yvonne Bogle, Andy Johnson, Andrea Tarpey, Jose Tolson, Naomi White-Inniss, and John Wilson.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Westfield State College and all the Student Leaders!!



2007

Cooperating Colleges Greater Springfield

Unity Fest

Saturday, September 15, 2007
Westfield State College
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



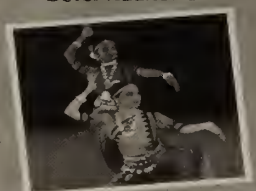
Guest Lecture Series 2007

Westfield State College

Images of the Goddess

September 13, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Dever Auditorium



A unique dance concert featuring the Nataraj and Amrita Dance companies and solo dancer Cynthia James, with musicians Phillip de Fremery, classical guitar, Rituska Mastrianni, percussion, and multi-instrumentalist Chris Stetson. The program celebrates the many faces of the Goddess in Asian and Western traditions from prehistoric to modern times. The dances and the music will make for a stimulating evening, as well as enhancing understanding of the affinities among Eastern and Western cultures, represented by the goddess Kali of India, the Celtic goddess Brigid, the Greek goddess Hecate, the Neolithic Bird goddess and others.

An Evening of Poetry with Ruth Ellen Koche

September 26, 2007 6:30 p.m.

Scanlon Living Room



Ruth Ellen Kocher

Ruth Ellen Kocher is the author of *One Girl Babylon* (New Issues Press, 2003), *When the Moon Knows You're Wandering* (New Issues Press, 2001), winner of the Green Rose Prize in Poetry, and *Desdemona's Fire* (Lotus Press, 1999), winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award. Her work has appeared in various journals, including *Washington Square Journal, Ploughshares, Crab Orchard Review, Clackamas Literary Review, The Missouri Review, African American Review, The Gettysburg Review*, and *Antioch*, among others, and has been translated into Persian in the Iranian literary magazine *Sheir*. She has been a fellow at the Bucknell Seminar for Younger Poets, Cave Canem, and Yaddo. She teaches poetry and poetry writing in the MFA program at University of Colorado-Boulder and as guest faculty in the New England College low residency MFA program.

Children in Slavery – The 21st Century

October 15, 2007 3:30 p.m.

Scanlon Banquet Hall A & B



Christine Dolan

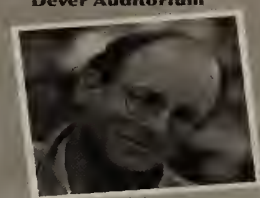
Children in Slavery – The 21st Century

Investigative Journalist Christine Dolan, Author of Shattered Innocence – The Millennium Holocaust, and former Political Director of CNN, covers slavery and its rippling economic effects worldwide. Two hundred years ago, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce convinced British society of slavery's immorality. They turned the tide of history throughout the British Empire. They inspired Frances Marquis de Lafayette, and Americas William Lloyd Garrison and Abraham Lincoln. Society needs to be educated about our current global phenomenon of slavery- a shared global shame larger than ever before in modern history. Slavery exists in every country – even in the U.S. Over 50% of the worlds 27 million slaves today"are children' Slavery generates $32 Billion annually on the street, $35 Billion over the Internet. Ms. Dolan will address what slavery looks like in the 21st Century and how to end it'

Mountains Beyond Mountains

November 13, 2007 7 p.m.

Dever Auditorium



Tracy Kidder

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder will discuss this year's Campus Book Mountains Beyond Mountains on Tuesday, November 13th at 7 p.m. in Dever Auditorium. Mountains Beyond Mountains tells the story of Dr. Paul Farmer, an infectious disease specialist who discovered his calling to provide medical assistance in developing countries while working in Haiti as a student. Partners in Health, the organization he now heads, works in Haiti, Peru, Africa and Russia to treat a wide range of diseases in the Third World, including AIDS and TB. Countless readers have found inspiration in Kidder's moving account of the man's successes in the struggle against global poverty and disease.

Westfield

The Voice

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonymously but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Return of WSC men's ice hockey as varsity sport



Athletics director Richard Lenfest, right, discusses the state of the Westfield State athletics program with Peter Laviolette, a 1986 WSC graduate who is the head coach of the NHL Carolina Hurricanes.

COLBY HENDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

When Peter Laviolette, Westfield State Alum and head coach of the Carolina Hurricanes of the NHL, returned to Westfield in the spring to make the commencement speech at graduation, he had other things on his mind.

For years, Laviolette, along with a group of supporters including interim president Barry Maloney, has been trying to resurrect the Westfield State men's ice hockey team. It was stripped of its varsity status in 1989 due to budget constraints.

Over the past summer, the college announced the addition of their 19th varsity sport, men's ice hockey, for the 2008-2009 season. With the help of Laviolette, the school was able to collect the funds necessary to take on another varsity team and bring the excitement of college hockey back to Westfield.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our student athletes," said Westfield State athletics director, Richard Lenfest. "Varsity ice hockey will bring an added dimension to our department and we look forward to the challenge of building a program that the college, alumni and community can be proud of."

The team will play at the Amelia Park Arena, which has been home to the ice hockey club for the past eight years. The club had been very competitive since being implemented in 1999 which helped its cause to become a varsity sport. The team will remain a club for the 2007-2008 season and become a varsity sport in the fall of 2008.

"NCAA Division III hockey has the potential to become another great spectator sport for families in the community," Maloney said. "I invite everyone to come to the first home game in the fall of 2008."

Westfield State has applied for membership in the ECAC Northeast Hockey League. The league currently fields 16 teams, including Division III colleges Fitchburg State, Worcester State, Western New England, Framingham State, Curry, U-Mass Dartmouth, Wentworth, Plymouth State, Suffolk, Johnson & Wales, Salve Regina and Nichols.

"It is a very attractive schedule, plus we are fortunate to have a first-class facility (Amelia Park Arena) within a couple miles from campus," said Lenfest. "This is excellent for recruiting and a big convenience for our students to be able to attend the games."

The school is currently in the process of looking for a new head coach, which they hope to find before the spring of 2008 so they can begin recruiting prospective students.

The men's ice hockey team will be the eighth men's varsity sport, 19th overall including 10 women's and one co-ed (cheerleading).

Inaugural Westfield Bank/Owl Club golf tournament to tee off Sept. 17



Join us for the inaugural Westfield Bank - Owl Club Golf Tournament, on September 17, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Reunite with friends, teammates, alumni, and parents at Tekoa Country Club in Westfield, Mass., with all proceeds benefiting the Owl Club, which supports Westfield State College's athletic programs.

The tournament will be a captain-and-crew format, which allows golfers of all abilities to play and a fun and competitive setting while benefiting Westfield State College athletics. The tournament will include longest drive, straightest drive, closest to the pin and putting contests as well.

The $135 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch served on the course, and a buffet dinner and awards ceremony after the tournament. A cocktail hour will precede the dinner.

Tekoa Country Club is located on Route 20, less than a mile away from Westfield State College. In fact, the course's original layout at the turn of the 20th century included a clubhouse where the Westfield State administration building at 333 Western Avenue now stands. The course was redesigned by legendary course architect Donald Ross in 1923, and had some features redesigned by Geoffrey Cornish in 1961. The course plays 6,215 yards from the tips.

Tournament will be played rain or shine: In the event that rain forces course cancellation, dinner will still be served.

2007 Hall Of Fame Class to be inducted friday, October 19

Five former Westfield State standouts and a retired faculty member will be inducted into the college's Athletics Hall of Fame during the 2007 Alumni Weekend.

The 12th annual inductions will be held Friday evening, Oct. 19, in Scanlon Banquet Hall on the Westfield State campus. For ticket information, contact 413-572-5433.

Dr. Edwin Abar, a faculty member from 1971-2004 and a major contributor to the WSC athletics program, is being enshrined along with Jack Dougherty ('76, baseball); Jason Franklin ('93, basketball); Steve Goebel ('89, cross country/track); Lisa Lebiecki ('87, softball); and Tim Lightfoot ('96, football).

Ticket Information

Football

$5 Adults
$3 Students and seniors citizens

Men's and Women's Basketball

$4 Adults
$2 Students and seniors citizens

All Regular Season Football and Basketball Events

Westfield State students free with ID
Westfield State staff and faculty free with athletic pass
Children 12 years old and under receive free admission

All other Sporting Events are free admission for all spectators



The Westfield State College football team's Photo Day was Friday, Aug. 31. The Owls scrimmaged at Springfield College later that day. Their regular season opener is Friday, Sept. 7, when they host Western New England College at 7:00 p.m.

#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445.

Welcome Back Students & Faculty!!

- The Voice Staff

Fri 09/07	Fall 2007 Add/Drop 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Wilson 105 Computer Lab Wilson Hall	Radio Station Laser 99.3 Live on the Green 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Ely Green	Football Game vs. WNEC 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm Alumni Field Alumni Turf
Sat 09/08	Field Hockey vs. Worcester State 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Alumni Field Alumni Turf	Red Sox @ Baltimore 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Lower Lounge Ely Hall	Movie: Knocked up 10:00 pm to 12:00 am Main Lounge Ely Hall
Sun 09/09	Roman Catholic Noon Mass 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Interfaith Center Interfaith Center Chapel	Intramurals 3:00 pm to 1:00 am Parenzo Gym Parenzo Hall	Red Sox vs. Oakland 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm Main Lounge Ely Hall
Mon 09/10	Student National Education Assoc (SNEA) Meeting 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Stu Gov't Room - Ely Hall	Online Class Orientation 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm Room 139 Comp Lab Wilson Hall	Step Team Dance Club Practice 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Third World Room Ely Hall
Tues 09/11	Commuter FREE BBQ 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Commuter Parking Lot	Rock Wall Open to WSC 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Center	Christian Student Meeting 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm Interfaith Center Interfaith Center Chapel
Wed 09/12	Rosh Hashanah Service 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Interfaith Center Interfaith Center Chapel	Urban Education Prog. Recruitment/Mentor Meeting 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm Scanlon Hall Living Room	FYE: Community Service Fair 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Banquet Hall ABCD Scanlon Hall
Thurs 09/13	SGA - Sponsored Club Fair 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Ely Patio- Ely Hall Rain Location: Main Lounge	Class of 2010 Meeting 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Stu Gov't Assoc Room Ely Hall	Web Design Made Easy 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm Multimedia PC Lab 04 Bates Hall

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime, all majors welcome!

Welcome Back!

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | September 14, 2007 | Issue II

Near ground zero, much is changed on 6th anniversary

CARA BUCKLEY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For the first time in six years, Sept. 11 fell on a Tuesday, the same day the planes flew into the buildings and changed everything. .

Yet much was different at the increasingly familiar ceremony in Lower Manhattan, where families of the dead, public officials and visitors gathered to mourn and remember.

Unlike tbe awful, brilliant day of the attacks, this year's skies were moody and dark, alternately threatening and delivering rain. The ceremony took place not at ground zero, where construction cranes now rise like tentative fingers of hope, but near its southeastern corner, in Zuccotti Park.

The families began trickling in at 7 a.m., some clutching bouquets of flowers, others holding heart-shaped balloons, eventually filling the park by the hundreds and taking refuge from sporadic drizzle under a sea of dark umbrellas.

And then, as it has for five years before, the remembrance ceremony assumed its recognizable form. At 8:40 a.m., the Brooklyn Youth Chorus took the stage, and sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," their voices sounding like angels as moumers held aloft photos of people who, to them, are angels now, too. Afterward, the drummer for the New York Police Department marching band sounded a mournful heartbeat, and then the bagpipers began.

At 8:46 a.m., the moment the first plane struck the North Tower, a bell was sounded, as it has for six years now, and the gathered masses bowed their heads.

"On that day, we felt isolated, but not for long, and not from each other," Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said. "New Yorkers rushed to the site, not knowing which place was safe or if there was more danger ahead. They weren't sure of anything except that they had to be here. Six years have passed, and our place is still by your side." In Washington, unlike previous anniversaries of the attack, President Bush spent the day in the city after attending a service at St. John's Episcopal Church and holding a moment of silence on the South Lawn of the White House.

Not far away, a ceremony was held at the Pentagon, where 184 people died when an American Airlines flight crashed into the sprawling building.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, laid a wreath at the spot where the airplane struck.

General Pace, in his full Marine Corps dress uniform, told the victims' families that their loved ones would be remembered.

"I do not know the proper words to tell you what is in my heart, what is in our hearts, what your fellow citizens are thinking today," he said. "We certainly hope that somehow these observances will help lessen your pain."

In Shanksville, Pa., the ceremony to honor the victims of United Flight 93 was intentionally smaller and more intimate on this sixth anniversary, but no less emotional for the families of the victims and visitors who came to take part and observe.

"I thought it would feel different" with a smaller crowd, said Tanja Root, 36, of Cedar Grove, N.J., whose husband's aunt, Lorraine Bay, was a flight attendant who died on Flight 93. "But it's the same feelings, and just as hard."

With a crowd of perhaps 400 visitors and just two main political dignitaries,- Gov. Edward Rendell of Pennsylvania and the head of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, the ceremony was in sharp contrast to last year's longer and larger gathering that included a visit from President Bush.

Mr. Chertoff observed: "Some people ask the question: Do we have 9/11 fatigue? Has the time come to move on? I will tell you that as long as I draw a breath, I will not move on and neither will the 280,000 people in my department."

Mr. Rendell, spoke of the need to complete a permanent memorial on this site about 80 miles east of Pittsburgh, before living memories fade.

Families of the crash



www.nytimes.com

victims have estimated that such a memorial would cost about $57 million and have said that only about $30 million of the public's contribution has been raised.

Rain began falling as the modest ceremony began at about 9:45 am Eastern time. Many participants stood under umbrellas in this rural countryside as the speakers gave their addresses and the name of the victims were recited.

After Mayor Bloomberg spoke in Lower Manhattan, 236 emergency workers from an array of city agencies and religious entities, read, in alphabetical order, the names of the day's 2,750 victims at the World Trade Center.

At 10 a.m. after a moment of silence to mark the collapse of the South Tower, Rudolph W. Giuliani made a brief statement. The presence of the former mayor, who is running for president, had stirred controversy from those not wanting to politicize these ceremonies, although he has attended every year.

"On this day six years ago and on the days that followed in the midst of our great grief and turmoil, we also witnessed uncompromising strength and resilience as a people," Mr. Giuliani said. "It was a day with no answers, but with an unending line of those who came forward to try to help one another.

Mr. Giuliani added: "Elie Wiesel wrote this about the blackest night a human being can know: 'I have learned two lessons in my life. First, there are no significant literary, psychological or historical answers to human tragedy, only moral ones. Second, just as despair can come to one another only from other human beings, hope too can be given to one only by other human beings.'"

Several witnesses at the ceremony described a confrontation between a man and Mr. Giuliani, with Sara Kugler of The Associated Press reported that a young man and a woman from the line of family members began yelling and pushing and trying to get near Mr. Giuliani.

The woman with that man, Sabrina Rivera, said she was there mourning her ex-boyfriend's father, Lt. Robert F. Wallace of the Fire Department. "Because of Giuliani we never had closure," Ms. Rivera said. "We never had closure because as soon as 9/11 happened he had all the remains shipped to Staten Island, in the dump, in the landfill. And we never had closure because of him."

After the outburst, Ms. Rivera and the man who yelled at Mr. Giuliani they were asked to keep walking and to leave the area.

Construction at ground zero was stilled for the day, but the roar of an awakening Manhattan filled the air. Cars crept along West Street, sirens yelped, and workers in nearby office buildings peered down from windows at the proceedings, and then retreated back to work.

And huddled under their umbrellas, shifting awkwardly because there were no seats, the relatives held up the photos of their perished loved ones, visceral reminders of the day they may hate to remember but cannot bear to forget.

Ground Zero-Page 3

10 ways to tell you're an internet addict

1. You prefer to be contacted by email.

2. You spend more money on internet access in a month than you do on gasoline for your caf.

3. You no longer own a car because you sold it on an on-line auction.

4. Tech support refers their tough questions to you.

5. You baven't ordered pizza by phone for years.

6. When you can't get online your vocal profanities fill the room.

7. People think you're bilingual because you speak in HTML.

8. Your phone line is always busy, and you don't have a teenage daughter.

9. No one knows your real name. You're referred to by your screenname only.

10. Your significant other lives on another continent and you've yet to meet them in person.

Freshmen: Need some advice? Check out page 4!!

HUGE thanks to Todd LeMieux for redesigning our nameplate!!

Inside

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Sports page 7

Westfield in Washington
Great opportunities to intern in Washington DC

If you've thought an internship in Washington D.C. was beyond your reach, you might be surprised to find that qualified students, (those with Massachusetts residency and an overall grade point average of 3.0) qualify for significant scholarship from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and The Washington Center ($5000 summer term and $4500 fall or spring term). This substantial award may be combined with additional support generously provided by the Westfield State College Foundation. These experiences, available to upper classmen in all academic majors, include high quality supervised placements and housing. Academic requirements vary by major and departmental approval is required.

Nineteen WSC students recently completed the competitive 10 week summer program. Overall, WSC has a strong record of participation in this experiential opportunity with over 100 program alumni.

Undergraduates have found that internships are critical stepping stones to further academic learning and professional success. Westfield State students have enjoyed a range of exciting placements, working full-time in a professional environment while also experiencing the intellectual, social and cultural diversity of the Capital. Some of our Criminal Justice students have worked with INTERPOL, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Marshal Service, DEA, Homeland Security, The International Association of Chiefs of Police, Potomac Advocates and the Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights. History majors have experienced Capital Hill and the U. S. Naval Museum. Political Science majors made contributions to the National Democratic Committee. the AFL-CIO, various Congressional offices, law firms, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the American Task Force on Palestine and the State Department. Communications majors found exciting opportunities with public relations firms, law and lobbying offices and various newspapers. Business, Math and Economic majors contributed to the work of the U.S. Treasury, F.D.I.C., the Small Business Administration and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Dual majors, Environmental Science and Political Science for instance, found placements, like the Environmental Protection Agency, provided the best of all worlds. One of our art majors also worked in graphic design and web development with the EPA.

Paid placements are available in some federal agencies – the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Treasury, for instance. Significant scholarships covering complete program and housing expenses are also available for students with disabilities during fall and spring semesters.

Deadlines vary depending on program and semester. Students interested in placements that require security clearances must apply well in advance. This generally applies to Criminal Justice placements. Security Clearance Deadline for summer 2008 is September 29, 2007.

General Application deadline for Spring 2008 is November 14, 2007.

The application process includes a writing sample, two references, resume and transcript. Applications are filed online and require a $60.00 electronic payment. Students are encouraged to plan well in advance of their intended internship semester.

Interns share apartments with other Washington Center interns. Apartments are located in Georgetown or just outside the District in Arlington or Alexandria, Virginia or Bethesda, Maryland. Within a few blocks of the Metro, most interns appreciate not having the expense or hassle of needing a car. Concerts, museums, professional sports, Georgetown and the National Mall provide plenty of weekend activities.

Experiences are tailored to meet the academic and professional needs of the students. Academic credit is provided by Westfield State through consultation with the appropriate academic department. Congressional meetings, embassy visits, workshops and speakers round out the academic and professional offerings.

Interested? Contact Maureen McCartney, Director of the Career Center and Liaison to The Washington Center, to learn more about the Washington Program 572-5206 mmccartney@wsc.ma.edu. You can also Visit the Washington Center website for details on these exciting opportunities www.twc.edu.

Editor's Desk



We may have just completed our first week of classes, and I don't know about you guys, but I'm already exhausted! Between classes, work and the newspaper, I'm wiped out. Don't get me wrong though, I've sacrified a few hours to get downtown and enjoy the bar scene with all my legal-aged friends and peers.

I don't think the rain or constant construction are helping my nerves though. As much as I enjoy hearing drills through my window at 6:30 in the morning. I'm kind of tired of discovering secret, alternate ways into Ely. I'm proud to say I've found a few though :)

This week has also been tough for our country. t Tuesday was the six year anniversary of 9/11. I can remember the attacks as if they happened yesterday. Not to mention the lovely tapes Bin Laden keeps sending; it's a subtle way of rubbing salt in a wound. Also, over the weekend, the body of missing Utah college student Camille Cleverley was discovered near a cliff where it's believed she had been biking. Whenever situations like these occurs, even when we don't have a personal touch to the event, we are saddened and scared. My thoughts and prayers are with Camille's family, as I'm sure yours are as well.

On a happier note, things have really taken off for the newspaper and I'm really excited about the changes and possibilities for The Voice. Like I've said before, stop by Ely 248 anytime and see how you can help out! We're always looking for columnists, reporters, photographers, editors etc. The time commitment is incredibly flexible and looks great on resumes!

Hope everyone has a great weekend!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Congress passes major higher education reform

On Sept. 7, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act by votes of 79 to 12 and 293 to 97 respectively. The bill now goes to the President who has said he will sign the legislation into law.

"Many students at Westfield State College graduate with debt. I applaud Congress for taking a huge step to reduce that debt burden and to make college more affordable and accessible," said Chris Gollnick, a student leader at Westfield State College.

"The College Cost Reduction and Access Act is the most meaningful higher education reform in more than 15 years," said Gollnick. "The legislation addresses the dual financial challenges of access and affordability that face American college students."

The Act, passed today, will provide billions of dollars a year in additional grant aid to low-income students and reforms to help lower student loan debt. The investment in education is paid for by lowering subsidies to private banks, at no new cost to taxpayers.

"The bill trims excessive subsidies that benefit a handful of banks and directs them to millions of students and families who are working to pay for college," explained Gollnick. "The bipartisan votes for this legislation, and the President's pledge to sign it into law, are testament to the broad support for helping students and families pay for college."

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act will:

• Increase the maximum Pell Grant award by $490 for each of the next two school years, by $690 for the following two school years and by $1,090 for each following year. The Pell Grant is the nation's premier college access program, providing grants to 5 million low-income students each year. The maximum Pell Grant is currently $4,310.

• Create an Income Based Repayment program that allows borrowers to repay their loans as percentage of their income. Borrowers would be expected to pay 15% of any income above 150% of the poverty line (about $15,000 for a single individual). This new program will protect borrowers with low salaries having to make unmanageable payments. As a result students will be able to make employment and life decisions based on their values rather than the volume of their debt.

• Reduce interest rates on student loans for more than 5 million low and middle-income student borrowers receiving subsidized Stafford loans. To see how many students would benefit from these interest rate reductions read U.S. PIRG's report , "Cutting Interest Rates, Lowering Student Debt" . (Note: this report does not describe the interest rate reduction used in the final College Cost Reduction Act)

Ground Zero cont. -page 1

"All those amazing incredible people who became victims that day. Please know your loved ones along with your loved ones' families and friends are remembered in our prayers," said one woman, after reading off the names of a dozen victims.

"Please know that we will never forget."

Though Manhattan was shrouded in fog, its skyline obscured from the New Jersey shoreline, about 100 people gathered on the cliffs in West Orange, where hundreds had watched horror unfold six years before.

In the days and months that followed the attacks, the site, at the Eagle Rock Reservation, became almost sacred, as people flocked there to pray and reflect, and mourn all that was lost in the hole punched into Manhattan's skyline. Around the first-year anniversary of the attacks, Essex County officials constructed a formal monument, with the names of the day's victims etched on stone tables behind a cluster of statues — a young girl holding a teddy bear, a firefighter's helmet, a patrolman's cap, an eagle.

In brief remarks to the crowd gathered there today, Don Robertson Sr. recalled the daily routine of his son, Donald Robertson Jr. His son worked at Cantor Fitzgerald, was 35 and a father of four when he died in the North Tower.

"On 9/11/01, he went to work that day and never came home," Mr. Robertson said. In the lapel of his dark blazer, he wore a button with a photograph of his son wearing a football uniform from Columbia High School.

Mr. Robertson, who said that he hoped he represented the families of the 49 other Essex County residents who died in the attacks — in all, more than 700 New Jersey residents were killed — added that the site had a particular significance because his family had not been given any remains or personal effects of his son.

"Eagle Rock," he said, "is really our cemetery."

It was a day when frayed, well-worn emotions became raw once again. In Albertson, on Long Island, a town councilman's voice broke as he read the name of a victim, Michael John Cahill, whose son had attended kindergarten with his daughter.

"For a kindergartner to realize," the councilman, Thomas K. Dwyer, continued, his voice catching again, "what was going on."



MIKE COUGHLIN
VOICE PHOTOGRAPHER

Oil, it's the primary interest why America is in the Middle East. America's dependency on foreign oil is astonishing. A scientist has mistakenly discovered how to turn salt water into fire. What does this mean to the common American? Once research grants are offered to fund more experiments, our newest source of energy will come from the most abundant natural resource on earth. Salt water.

Radio frequencies help burn salt water

DAVID TEMPLETON
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

ERIE, Pa. - An Erie cancer researcher has found a way to burn salt water, a novel invention that is being touted by one chemist as the "most remarkable" water science discovery in a century.

John Kanzius happened upon the discovery accidentally when he tried to desalinate seawater with a radio-frequency generator he developed to treat cancer. He discovered that as long as the salt water was exposed to the radio frequencies, it would burn.

The discovery has scientists excited by the prospect of using salt water, the most abundant resource on earth, as a fuel.

Rustum Roy, a Penn State University chemist, has held demonstrations at his State College lab to confirm his own observations.

The radio frequencies act to weaken the bonds between the elements that make up salt water, releasing the hydrogen, Roy said. Once ignited, the hydrogen will burn as long as it is exposed to the frequencies, he said.

The discovery is "the most remarkable in water science in 100 years," Roy said.

"This is the most abundant element in the world. It is everywhere," Roy said. "Seeing it burn gives me the chills."

Roy will meet this week with officials from the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to try to obtain research funding.

The scientists want to find out whether the energy output from the burning hydrogen — which reached a heat of more than 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit — would be enough to power a car or other heavy machinery.

"We will get our ideas together and check this out and see where it leads," Roy said. "The potential is huge."



Symbols of Middle Eastern powers, Iraq oud Iron ore shown next to and oil rig. Rodio woves, when couducted threw solt water, couse the water to burn. Creoting energy. Further reseorch con rid the Uuited Stote's dependency on foreign oil.

By Mike Coughliu

Homecoming 2007-Save The Date-Oct. 18-20

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2007 - Saturday, October 20, 2007

Mass with Father Dean, reunion brunch, reunion brunch for English majors, sky divers. Admissions Open House, the 4th annual Blues 'n Brews Festival, Alumni College, Urban Ed Joan E. Fuller Scholarship Banquet, National Tempera Art Show, Alumni Art Show and so much more await attendees at Homecoming! It also happens to mark the 160th anniversary of our alumni association!

How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

All of us in Career Services look forward to the academic year and wish you great success in reaching your academic and professional goals. As you settle in, we hope you will take time to drop by and meet our staff. In the meantime, we appreciate the opportunity to bring you the Career Corner in The Voice. Each week, we will brief you on programs, resources and events that will help you plan and prepare for your chosen careers.

The Career Center, located in Lammers Hall, is open daily to serve students and alumni. Many undergraduates think the resources are just for seniors. In fact, we can work closely with you at all stages of your education, as you explore career options, select or change a major/minor, consider experiential education opportunities and plan your job search.

For those in the exploratory stages, a few web-based tools might be helpful. Have you checked out "What Can I do with a Major in?" This great resource, available on the Career Service website, can be very useful. Over 60 majors are covered, from Accounting to Urban Studies. Areas of specialization or focus within the major are outlined, along with information on the types of employers that typically hire individuals with these majors. A number of online links are listed, featuring professional associations and related resources.

FOCUS, an online tool, can help you:
Analyze your career planning status.
Assess your interests, skills, work values, personality, and preferences.
Discover and explore occupations, career paths, and education programs compatible with your personal attributes.
Map out your career and educational goals, action plans, personal development and training needs.

Students can log on 24/7 with the key code "owls". A follow-up meeting with a career counselor is recommended.

Our "Job Web" Career Library has a complete section on Majors & Career with articles on a wide range of topics, including myths about federal jobs, careers in Chemistry, marketing your liberal arts career and opportunities in law enforcement.

Facts on File, a new addition, provides detailed profiles of more than 3,300 jobs and 94 industries, invaluable advice on career skills, more than 48,000 resource entries and much more! You will find great articles for your review – you may want to check out "First Impressions Create Lasting Impressions."

Visit the Career Services website for easy access to these tools. The earlier you start working with a career counselor, the better. A careful, thoughtful and organized approach will lower your stress level and bring greater rewards.

Call or email the Career Center to schedule an appointment – we are enthusiastic about working with you!

Phone: 413. 572.5206
Email: careers@wsc.ma.edu
Web: wsc.ma.edu/careerservices

Career Center Professional Staff

Maureen McCartney
Junior Delgado
Giselle Cartier
Jill Rushbrook

To the freshmen

Kayla Cournoyer
Voice Columnist

First off I would like to say welcome to all returning students here at Westfield State College. I hope you all enjoyed your summer and I wish you luck with the upcoming school year.

With that said, I would now like to welcome this year's freshmen, the class of 2011. I hope you enjoy your four years here and I wish you much luck.

I'm sure you all came here with your own ideas of what college would be like. Whether you think college is going to be the longest party of your life or the hardest four years you have ever experienced, it is going to be a time you will never forget.

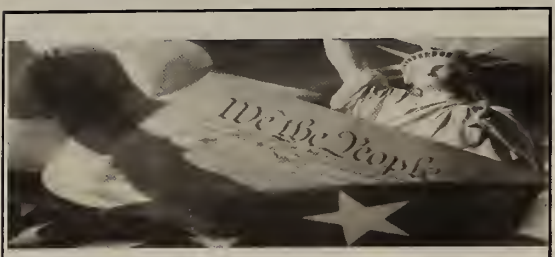
What I would like to do is help you to set aside your biases and be open-minded with this school. I would like to help you get to know it and maybe tell you some useful information. I've tried to narrow down what the best thing to talk about first would be.

I believe that knowing about the professors is one of the most important things to getting through college. In high school the professors would check up on you and make sure that you were doing the work and weren't missing too many classes. That is not quite how it goes here at Westfield State College. Even though the professors really do care, they don't follow you around and check up on what you are doing.

However, don't be intimidated. College is really not that bad if you put in the effort. Talking to your professors is one of the best things you can do to help yourself out. If you are forward with the professors and ask for help or go to their office during their scheduled office hours just to check in on the homework, then they are happy with the initiative.

Professors won't go out of their way to find you, but if you go to see them they're more than happy to help. Professors will go over the class notes or the homework and help you study for the exams. Professors really aren't as stern as they are portrayed to be; deep down they are all real people and have the same emotions as you. They do understand that life has emergencies and won't kill you for missing one assignment.

I hope that this has helped you become a little bit more familiar with a part of WSC. No matter what your major or if you are still undecided, WSC is happy to have you here. I wish you a lot of luck this semester.

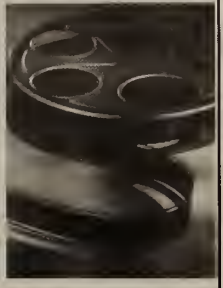


A video on...

The Constitution

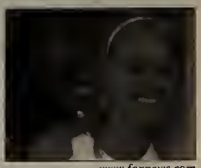
Come to the Campus Center for a screening of a video on the constitution! Receive information on this important national document and receive your own copy!

Monday
September 17
12pm-2pm



Utah police: no sign of foul play in Camille Cleverley's death

Associated Press



www.foxnews.com

PROVO, Utah — The investigation into the death of a Brigham Young University student whose body was found in Provo Canyon has turned up no evidence of foul play so far, Provo police said Monday.

The body of Camille Cleverley, 22, was discovered Sunday by searchers at the base of a 200-foot cliff, 10 days after she was last seen.

Utah County Sheriff James Tracy said it appeared she had made her way up a rocky talus slope halfway up Bridal Veil Falls, then followed a series of angled ledges to an outcrop where she fell. Her body was hidden by pine trees and heavy brush on the steep slope.

An autopsy was performed Monday, but the results will not be immediately released, Provo police Capt. Cliff Argyle said.

"Nothing we have found so far has pointed us toward foul play," he said.

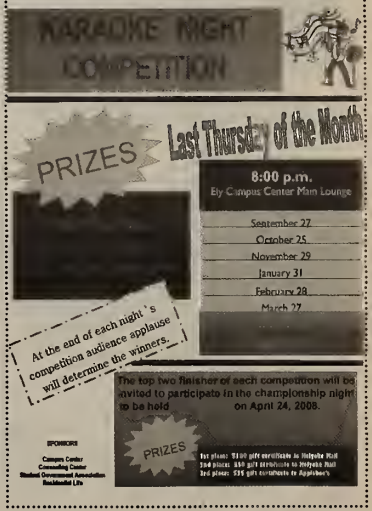
A campus candlelight event Sunday night was turned into a memorial service attended by more than 1,000 people after her body was found that afternoon.

Mayor Lewis Billings had flags at municipal locations lowered to half-staff Monday in honor of Cleverley.

Cleverley, of Boise, Idaho, would have been a senior when classes started Sept. 4. She was majoring in marriage, family and human development at BYU's School of Family Life.

Westfield Day at the Big E

Thursday, September 27
Westfield Day at the Big E: Westfield State salutes Criminal Justice programs, faculty, and alumni; Hospitality Tent; Parade; $10 ticket to the Big E
2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield



Voices Overheard

What are you looking forward to this semester?



Eric Pedersen
Class of 2010
Communications

"Everything... new opportunities."



Jaclyn Burns
Class of 2011
Education & Math

"Meeting new people and the whole experience of my first year in college."



Justin Bushey
Class of 2008
Communications

"Finishing out my senior year."



Kristi Mientka
Class of 2010
Communications

"My women's studies class."

Compiled by Jenn Krok

Put your collars down!

How the popped collar has become the go-to symbol of youthful arrogance in America



Dan Sullivan
Casual Observer

These days, it can be difficult to show everyone how cool you are. It seems like everyone has a shiny new iPod, an ingeniously placed piercing or a, like, totally original tribal slash butterfly slash barbed wire tattoo (because all real tough guys wrap barbed wire around their arms). Unfortunately, some of us either just don't have the cash for these hot new trends, or harbor an unchecked fear of pain and/or needles. And while we all know that shirpa boots and short skirts (however oxymoronic that may be), or fitted hats with flat brims and still-attached tags (are you people returning these or something?) are the must-haves for fashion, I would like to propose a special round of applause for the guy who thought of the popped collar.

I mean, seriously. How better to spit in the face of the establishment while still looking inarguably stylish than just to unfold your collar and let it stand up in defiance of all that is kitsch. Like, bro—you look like a totally Abercrombied-out rendition of Dracula, man. And to think polo shirts were once the status symbol of rich Brits who sat around playing (of all things) polo! They'd roll over in their graves if they could see how cool you look!

All right, sure there are more obvious and probably more annoying trends. There's guys who wear skin-tight girls' jeans. There's Crocks—you know, those criminally stupid things that look like orthopedic shoes. There's jet black hair dye, the ever-classy small-of-the-back tattoos, high-waisted pants and people who wear socks with sandals. But there's something about the popped collar that is wholly symbolic of something far more arrogant than just ill-advised styles. It just falls in way too neatly with the ever-present turn of the century "baby-'cause-I'm-a-thug" mentality that seems to pervade every aspect of society. Showing how *not* classy you are is the new classy. We revel in our *lack* of intelligence, our *lack* of decency. Fashion and individuality have always been enemies of kitsch, and that's okay. But sticking that stupid collar up is not defiance of kitsch; it's defiance of class. And it's in this way that it becomes more of an advertisement of ignorance than of happenin' good taste.

So please. For yourself. For me. For starving children in Third World countries. Put your collars down.

Nationally known comedian makes second appearance on campus



Eryn Carter
Managing Editor

Nationally known comedian, Eric O'Shea made his second appearance at Westfield State College on Sept. 7 during Welcome Week. He walked onto the tiny stage in Ely wearing an Ohio State t-shirt, where he had performed the night before. Unfortunately, his set was the same as last year. It seemed like the only people that were laughing were freshman and a few random girls in the front who were laughing so hard they couldn't breathe. O'Shea used those three girls often for on the spot jokes, which caused them to laugh even harder, and even asked if they would join him at all his shows because they were laughing so hard. Clearly, he doesn't have many fans.

His jokes weren't nearly as funny the second time around and the few new jokes that he had were low blows to our college. They usually consisted of making fun of the Owl mascot, asking if we drank and then traveled to our local Walmart for fun, and calling us hicks. Yes, we're all used to it, but WE'RE usually the ones cracking the jokes, not an outsider that is trying to make us laugh. Overall, Eric O'Shea is a wannabe Dane Cook and not nearly as funny. In this case, next year if he's asked back, third time will not be a charm.

CD Review: Cartel

Jennie Wilson
A&E Columnist



www.cduniverse.com

CARTEL is the self-titled, second release from the band Cartel. It is a great compilation of styles which CDuniverse says is "complete with high polish, guitar-driven rock songs, sprightly hooks, and emo sensibility." Many of the songs are reminiscent in style to Fall Out Boy, All-American Rejects, and even The Dirt Poor Robins. Even though the album is mainly punk, there are a few surprises, starting with "Lose It" which sounds like a song from a Proclaimer's or a newer Peter Gabriel CD. Also, their song "Wasted" has an unusual drum groove with interesting string arrangements in the background. "Wasted" also has an alternative version featuring world-class musician Wyclef Jean. Overall, this CD is very well written and constructed. It's a recommendation to any music lover to get this CD into your collection.

Pop Tarts: Britney Spears' crummy 'comeback' comes as no surprise to insiders

Hollie McKay
Fox News

LOS ANGELES — While music moguls and flocks of fans feel flabbergasted by Britney Spears' somber return to the stage, those close to Spears are not surprised by her strange spectacle on Sunday night.

According to an insider who used to work closely with the "Crazy" crooner, Spears' behavior has been bizarre for quite some time.

"I wasn't surprised when I watched her on the awards show," said the former Britney employee who asked to remain anonymous. "You never know what Britney will do. One minute she'd want her hair black, then blond, then she'd make the stylist cut it short, then scream for hair extensions. She would order a chicken burger, then cry and demand a pizza or if she ordered a hot coffee suddenly she'd demand that it be an iced tea."

The source also splurged that Spears' mood often would suddenly switch in split seconds from smiles to sobs.

But is Britney to blame for her poor performance, or was she used and abused for ratings by MTV?

Apparently, Spears broke down both before and after her problematic performance. And although MTV didn't return calls for comment, a Britney back-up dancer divulged that she wasn't exactly remarkable in the rehearsal room, either.

"Britney never did the routine all-out. She just blocked it. I think that was the problem — she got out there on stage and coupled with nerves Britney just didn't know how to do it properly. MTV was well aware she wasn't up to it," the insider told FOXNews.com.

And Spears reportedly was drinking margaritas while rehearsing her performance this weekend.

The New York Post's Page Six gossip column and others report that Britney showed up to her Saturday rehearsal hours late, and she did it "with a frozen margarita in her hand."

MTV reportedly ditched Britney's original performance at the last minute, and perhaps her well-documented collaboration with illusionist Criss Angel became a disappearing act because he knew it was going to fail.

"In the initial meetings that we had, I gave my professional creative advice," the magic man told "Extra." "But I stepped out of the picture."

Patrick Wanis, a human behavior and relationship expert, said it seemed as if Britney were on some sort of sedative and said her behavior was a "display of complete apathy."

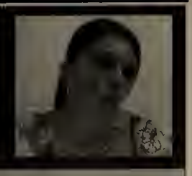
"She is subconsciously sabotaging her success," Wanis said. "Remember, this girl has been through a lot and she doesn't have a support base. It's not about not having a manager — it's about not having your family and real friends beside you."

But one thing MTV definitely isn't to blame for is the barely there bikini that revealed all of Britney's bulges.

"Britney really wanted to wear that. Everyone in wardrobe advised her against it, but she had her mind made up," the insider added. "It's like she's still clinging to who she was five years ago."

And Spears reportedly "forgot" to wear underwear yet again on Sunday night, revealing all as she emerged from a limo at the Luxor Hotel. Some speculated that photos on the Web could have been Photoshopped.

Editor's Desk



Here we are, back at good ol' Westfield State College. A week has already gone by since we've unpacked our things into our new rooms, visited our friends, and made new ones. In my case, it's the last time I'm going to have to move back to Westfield. It was kind of sad, but pretty exciting at the same time. I'm living with five other girls, all of whom I've never lived with before, and REALLY fending for myself this year. Not only am I balancing four classes in my major and one Intro class where I'm the ONLY senior, but I'm also the managing editor of The Voice, interning with the Springfield Falcons, freelancing for a magazine at home, and still managing to find time to ride and be with my friends.

Really though, I just wanted to say hi and introduce myself. I'll be working underneath Molly on The Voice. We're both very excited about the paper this year and have a lot planned for it. so I encourage you to stop in and see us or drop us an email and join our staff. It's a lot of fun and you can do pretty much anything. We even want freshman to join! No, seriously though, everyone should join. We're kind of a big deal. People know us.

Have a great year and welcome to the class of 2011! This year is bound to be a memorable one!

Yours truly,

Eryn Carter
Managing Editor
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

BEST SELLERS LIST

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. Restless Virgins
By Abigail Jones and Marissa Miley. Morrow.
2. The Dangerous Book for Boys
By Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden. Collins.
3. The Secret
By Rhonda Byrne. Beyond Words.
4. Never Give Up
By Tedy Bruschi. Wiley.

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. A Thousand Splendid Suns
By Khaled Hosseini. Riverhead.
2. Spook Country
By William Gibson. Putnam.
3. Away
By Amy Bloom. Random House.
4. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
By J. K. Rowling. Scholastic.

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Westfield's victory over Western New England, 34-21

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

WESTFIELD- Junior quartback Dan Cohen compiled 280 yards passing including a 60 yard bomb to sophomore receiver David Benoit, and a playmaking defense forced five turnovers to give Westfield State it's first victory of the season 34-21 over Western New England College on Friday, Sept. 7.

Alumni Field was packed with a crowd of over 3000 as the Owls claimed the President's Trophy and tied their win production of last year. WNEC had won last year's opener against Westfield decisively with a 31-3 victory, and after winning their opener against Hartwick 48-21 the Owls were in for a challenge.

That challenged loomed even larger after a 9-0 deficit on a field goal by WNEC kicker James Farrell and a touchdown by junior tailback Jordan Capitanio to cap the first quarter.

However, the Owls fought back with a Dwayne Kirby five-yard plunge to cut the lead to 9-7. Then with four minutes left in the half the playmaking defense of the Owls took over.

WNEC Sophomore quarterback Justin Walz of received a low snap from senior center Justin Burden. As the ball bounced up to Walz, he picked it up and immediately threw an ill-advised pass toward the sideline. Senior defensive end Geoff Farrington was reading the play all along and intercepted the ball and returned it for a 48-yard touchdown giving the Owls a 14-9 lead.

Then with time running out in the first half and WNEC's shotgun offense on the prowl, Justin Walz took a shot for the end zone, but yet again the Owls defense came up big. This time it was freshmen defensive back Dave Jolicoeur who intercepted the ball in the end zone to rap up the first half.

In the second half it was more of the same from the Owls defense. On back-to-back drives by the WNEC offense, the Owls caused turnovers. The first came with 11:11 left in the third quarter when junior linebacker Jay Fielding recovered a fumble. The second turnover was another fumble this time recovered by Farrington.

On the ensuing drive the Owls didn't waste much time to capitalize off the turnover. In one play they where in the end zone on a perfect trick play. Sophomore wide out Joe McCarthy took a reverse hand off from Cohen and fired a 26 yard touchdown to David Benoit to make the score 20-9.

The Golden Bear would strike right back, with a 81 yard touchdown pass down the sideline from Walz to Cliff Carpluk to make the score 20-15, ending the third quarter. However, not before the Owl special teams could chip in with a blocked extra point attempt. Their third of the night, this time to keep it to a five-point lead.

So entering the fourth and final quarter, the Owls offense received the ball and yet again did not waste time to put points on board. This time it would be way of a play action bomb from Cohen to Benoit to make the score 27-15 and put the game away. The final score would be 34-21, giving the Owls its first victory of the season.

"This was an outstanding victory for our program," said Head Coach Steve Marino. "Our kids responded in a big way against a very good Western New England team. I am very proud of how hard they played and how well they executed."



Westfield State head coach Steve Marino holds the coveted President's Trophy after the Owls' big victory over Western New England. Photo By Nancy Bals

The Owls face the Curry Colonels this Saturday on Alumni Field and senior captain Ricky Angus said he's very excited to have them come.

"Their four time Conference Champions so it should be a good test," Angus said.

Kickoff is at 1 pm Saturday and the game can also be heard on 89.5 WSKB Westfield.

Springfield stops Westfield, 3-1



Westfield State's Brennan Struthers goes high for a header during action in the WNEC Soccer Classic. Photo By Mickey Curtis

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – Senior Dan Lawrence (Easthampton, MA) tallied the game-winner off a corner kick from classmate Mike Stewart (Springfield, MA) as Western New England College defeated Clark University 2-1 in overtime Sunday (Sept. 2) to capture its own WNEC Classic title.

In the first match, Springfield (1-1) scored three unanswered goals in the second half for a 3-1 victory over Westfield State (0-2).

Senior Nick Gumlaw (Agawam, MA) gave the Owls a 1-0 lead in the 32nd minute before the Pride rallied after half-time.

Senior Tony Distasio (Burlington, CT) tied the contest in the 57th minute followed by the game-winning goal by senior Chad Bonnell (Hazlet, NJ) in the 70th minute Distasio added an insurance goal in the 74th minute. He made the All-Tournament Team with classmate Michael Kilmartin (Waterford, NY).

Gumlaw and sophomore Ben Berthiaume (Swansea, MA) were the Westfield State players gaining All-Tournament recognition.

Lawrence was voted the Classic Offensive MVP after netting the winning shot only 1:50 into the extra session. Stewart and sophomore Justin Martins (Ludlow, MA) were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

Clark (1-1) took a 1-0 lead on a goal by senior David Blum (Irvington, NY) just 5:22 into the match. Sophomore Devin Weafer (Carmel, NY) earned the assist.

The Golden Bears (2-0) knotted the match when Martin fired home a shot with assists from Stewart and junior Dale Totman (Conway, MA) in the 11th minute.

WNEC dominated action in the second half, but couldn't find the back of the net. Clark sophomore Charlie Sherman (Amston, CT) had a shot with 1:05 left in regulation sail over the net from about 15 yards out. Junior goalkeeper Peter Wise (Providence, RI) made a great save in the opening of overtime off a shot by WNEC junior Brian Dill (Portland, CT).

Clark senior Lino Goncalves (Newton, MA) was voted the Classic Defensive MVP while Wise and senior Marc Labbe (Waterville, ME) made the All-Tournament Team.

Westfield routs Green Mountain, 7-0



Freshman Ali Pease scores Westfield State's second goal.

WESTFIELD – Freshman forward Kate MacLellan (Wilbraham) tallied two goals and an assist, and sophomore midfielder Colleen Kenney (Longmeadow) recorded three assists to lead Westfield State to a 7-0 women's soccer victory over Green Mountain College of Vermont on Saturday, Sept. 8.

The Owls are 1-3 while Green Mountain dropped to 0-4.

Freshman forward Jill Ranney of Southwick scored the game's first goal following a nice crossing pass from MacLellan.

Scoring:
Westfield: Jill Ranney (Kate MacLellan), 14:22
Westfield: Ali Pease (Colleen Kenney), 18:59
Westfield: Alicia Chandler (Karissa Brunoli), 24:01
Westfield: Ashley Szczebak (Anna Hart), 49:55
Westfield: Emily Murphy (Colleen Kenney), 52:57
Westfield: Kate MacLellan (Colleen Kenney), 69:02
Westfield: Kim MacLellan, 71:58

Goalie Saves:
Westfield: Andrea Knowles (1st Half) 0 saves; Jessie Tomich (2nd half), 0 saves
Green Mountain: Claire Davis 8 saves

Shots: Westfield 19; Green Mountain 0

Cross Country opens at Trinity Invite

MANCHESTER, Conn. - The Westfield State men's cross country team finished fifth in the seven-team Trinity College Invitational held at Wickham Park in Manchester, Conn., on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Trinity won the meet with 22 points, followed by Tufts (43), Rhode Island (103), Roger Williams (105), Westfield (110), AIC (178), and WNEC (183).

John Messer was Westfield's top finisher, placing eighth in 17:05 over the 3.14 mile course. His twin brother, Andy, finished 19th in 17:43.

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12th ANNUAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Westfield State College

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

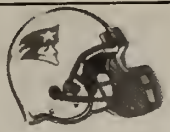
1:30pm - 4:00pm

Woodward Athletic Center

Agencies Attending as of 9/11/07

Amherst MA Police Department
Army ROTC
Barnstable Police Department
Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
Berkshire Juvenile Court
Burlington Police Department
CHD Community Assessment Program
Chesterfield County Police Department
Community Resources for Justice
Community Solutions
Connecticut State Police
CT Department of Corrections
Dudley District Court Probation
Dunn & Phillips, P.C.
East Hartford Police Department
Essex County Sheriff's Department
Fairfax County Police Department
Federal Air Marshal's
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Granville Police Department
Hampden County District Attorney-Victim Witness Program
Hampden County Sheriff's Department
Hampden County Superior Court-Probation
Hampshire Sheriff's Office
Hartford Police Department
Hillcrest Educational Centers
Keene Police Department
Key Program, Inc
Kohl's Department Stores
Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse
MA Department of Corrections
Maine State Police
Massachusetts Air National Guard
Massachusetts Army National Guard
Massachusetts School of Law
New Hampshire State Police
New York State Police
NOAA Fisheries-Office for Law Enforcement
Palmer District Court-Probation Department
Portland Police Department
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Social Security Administration
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The Bridge of Central MA, Inc
The May Institute
The New England Center for Children
The Town of Enfield Police Department
Town of Manchester
Town of West Hartford
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
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Westfield Chamber of Commerce:

Communications - looking to develop a quarterly electronic newsletter for our membership. The skills this intern should have are a writing ability for copy, the ability to research and report on various topics and issues. These topics and issues will be business oriented and should be of interest to our membership. There will be some articles on marketing the chamber and new members.

Also considering developing a website - the website would be easy to maintain and update. It will have short articles and graphics. It also may have its own URL

Interested students and/or faculty should contact:

Lynn F Boscher, Executive Director
The Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce
53 Court St., Westfield, MA 01085
413.568.1618



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Thursday September 20, 2007
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Scanlon Banquet Hall
Westfield State College

- Preview clips from Ken Burns' THE WAR as well as the WGBY local documentary, From the Factories to the Frontlines
- Hear from a panel comprised of veterans and historians
- Find ways to share your story
- Check out what's been done locally to preserve oral histories, and how you can become involved

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Refreshments provided
For more information, contact Priscilla Miller at (413) 572-8065 or pmiller@wsc.ma.edu

Iraq War splits candidates by party

AP Associated Press

Council Bluffs,Iowa- Democratic presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton pressed Wednesday for greater troop withdrawals from Iraq, while Republican John McCain sought to win the hearts and minds of voters in favor of staying the course.

After two days of congressional testimony from Gen. David Petraeus, the military commander in Iraq, and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the gap between the positions of the candidates on the war, the campaign's top issue, was as great as ever and may even be widening.

McCain, who has begun to inch back up in opinion polls after suffering serious setbacks to his candidacy this summer, spent his second day traversing Iowa in a bus festooned with a banner that said it all: "No Surrender."

The Arizona senator and former Vietnam POW was warmly received by veterans of five wars at a VFW post in Council Bluffs.

"We have suffered enormous losses and Americans are frustrated and angry ... but we do have a new strategy and a new general and it is succeeding and we ought to give it a chance to succeed," McCain told about 100 people in the VFW's red-white-and-blue-theme basement.

Across the state at Ashford University in Clinton, Obama called for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. combat brigades from Iraq, with the pullout being completed by the end of next year.

"Let me be clear: There is no military solution in Iraq and there never was," Obama said in excerpts of the speech provided to The Associated Press.

"The best way to protect our security and to pressure Iraq's leaders to resolve their civil war is to immediately begin to remove our combat troops. Not in six months or one year - now," the Illinois senator said.

Obama made his remarks a day before President Bush was expected to announce that he plans to reduce the U.S. troop presence in Iraq by as many as 30,000 by next summer from the 160,000 there now.

Republican hopeful Mitt Romney assailed Obama, arguing that the country would be less safe had the Illinois senator's drawdown strategy - "his retreat for political purpose" - been employed last January as he proposed.

"If we had followed his plan, al Qaeda would have a safe haven in Iraq and Osama bin Laden would be celebrating," Romney said in a telephone interview with the AP from Midland, Texas, where he was speaking to a women's group.

"Had there not been a surge, had Barack Obama been running the country instead, al Qaeda would now have a safe haven in Iraq, which would have made Afghanistan's safe haven look like child's play. I think Barack Obama has disqualified himself for presidential leadership," Romney said. "If we take the kind of left turn represented by Barack Obama and his flee-in-the-face-of-success strategy, we'd be in a very different position as a nation."



www.cbsnews.com

McCain said Obama's ideas are "dead wrong, and dangerous for the future of the country."

Clinton also weighed in on the war Wednesday, sending Bush a letter urging him to bring troops home faster and not to use his prime-time speech Thursday to declare new successes in Iraq. She said Bush's planned announcement of a troop reduction would have happened anyway when the troops would have had to come home at the end of their 15-month deployment.

"He is in essence going to tell the American people that one year from now the number of troops in Iraq will be the same as there were one year ago," she said after picking up the endorsement of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Washington. "Taking credit for this troop reduction is like taking credit for the sun coming up in the morning."

In criticizing the administration's current strategy, Clinton also linked the president's anticipated speech to the one he gave more than four years ago on an aircraft carrier under a banner that read "Mission Accomplished."

"Mr. President, we don't need another mission accomplished moment," she said. "What we need is honesty and candor."

But two other Democratic candidates, John Edwards and Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd, chastised Obama and Clinton for not pursuing a troop withdrawal vigorously enough.

Edwards - who has been calling for an immediate withdrawal of 40-50,000 troops and a complete withdrawal of all combat troops within nine to 10 months - said Obama's plan would only "'begin' to end this war now."

"Our young men and women are dying every day for a failed policy. Every member of Congress who believes this war must end, from Senators Obama and Clinton to (GOP Sen. John) Warner, has a moral responsibility to use every tool available to them, including a filibuster, to force the president to change course," said Edwards, the former North Carolina senator.

Dodd said he was "disappointed" that Obama "didn't include a firm, enforceable deadline for redeployment," and dismayed that neither he nor Clinton "will give an unequivocal answer on whether they would support a measure if it didn't have such an enforceable deadline.

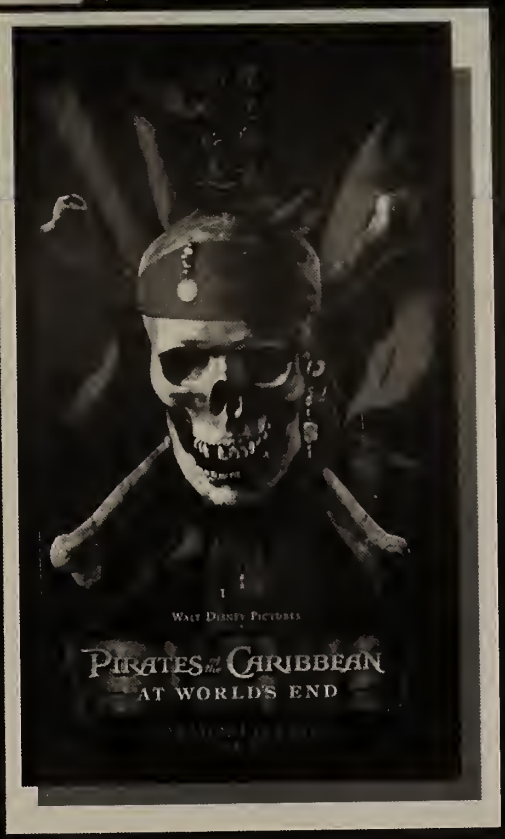
In Ohio, Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani criticized Clinton for her skeptical comments about Petraeus' congressional testimony. Clinton, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, had told Petraeus and Crocker: "The reports that you provide to us really require the willing suspension of disbelief."

"Why would you say that about an American general?" Giuliani asked after a brief campaign stop at an Akron restaurant. The former New York mayor said there was no reason for Clinton "to make personal attacks on the general."

McCain also criticized Clinton.

"First of all, it's a willing suspension of disbelief that Senator Clinton thinks she knows more than General Petraeus about events on the ground in Iraq," he said at an American Veterans post in Des Moines.

MOVIE ON THE GREEN



SEPT.14

10PM

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Fri 9/14	Senior Night (21+) Ely Hill 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Rain Location: Third World Room	Pirates of the Caribbean Campus Green 10:00 pm- 12:00 am Rain Location: Ely Main Lounge	Kids Night Out Program 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Parenzo Gym
Sat 9/15	Football Game v. Curry College 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Alumni Turf	Red Sox v. New York Yankees 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm Ely Lower Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 pm to 12:30 am Ely Main Lounge
Sun 9/16	Roman Catholic Noon Mass 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Interfaith Center	Red Sox v. New York Yankees 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Ely Lower Lounge	Patriots v. San Diego 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm Ely Main Lounge
Mon 9/17	Track Meeting 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Woodward Center	Women's Soccer v. AIC 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Alumni Turf	Red Sox v. New York Yankees 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Ely Lower Lounge
Tues 9/18	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Center- Rock Wall	Field Hockey v. Trinity 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Alumni Turf	Red Sox at Toronto 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Ely Lower Lounge
Wed 9/19	Taste of Westfield 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Ely Main Lounge	Women's Soccer v. WPI 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Alumni Turf	FYES "Ultimate Road Trip" 6:00 pm to 7:15pm Scanlon Banquet Hall
Thurs 9/20	Class of 2010 Meeting 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm SGA Conference Room	Kung Fu Club Training 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Parenzo Dance Studio	Red Sox at Toronto 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Ely Lower Lounge

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime, all majors welcome!



ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | September 21, 2007 | Issue III

Temporary entrances and disturbances for sake of accessibility on campus

Danielle Bourassa
Voice Reporter

Campus construction on Ely began in August, months after the anticipated start date, due to a delay in state funding.

The construction involves updates to the building in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a compliance that is long overdue. "We're progressing as quickly as we possibly can. I mean here we are in 2007 still talking about buildings that don't have elevators. And we have other buildings on campus that aren't one hundred percent accessible…that's not what I would consider a real friendly environment," said interim President Barry Maloney.

The building is receiving a new elevator, which will provide access to the second and third floors. It will also receive new ramps, improvements to the television studio on the second floor and the movement of the campus bookstore to the main lobby. This capital project is through state funding, but students should not expect to see tuition and fee increases. Construction is expected to last eighteen months. An important note for the Class of 2008, it is reported that commencement will not be affected.

Over the course of the summer other buildings on campus received improvements as well. Scanlon, one of the three original buildings on campus, received a new elevator and Parenzo is in the process of receiving a ramp. It goes without saying that students may find themselves inconvenienced by the



construction or generally unaware of what is taking place. Senior Michelle Colson said, "I have no idea what's going on. I have a class in Ely and sometimes the construction can be really distracting." Interim President Barry Maloney and staff recognize the disruptions this construction may cause. He ensures students that he will do whatever he can to minimize the disruptions throughout the year. Students are encouraged to work through the Student Government Association (SGA) or contact the president's office directly to let officials know if there are negative impacts.

Further large scale construction plans will likely be held off until the construction on Ely is completed. Minor projects, however, will continue to take place.

O.J. Simpson wins bail on kidnapping, robbery charges

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Former American football legend O.J. Simpson appeared in court in Las Vegas Wednesday for the first time on kidnapping and robbery charges, and was granted bail set at 125,000 dollars.

Simpson, who was famously acquitted of the 1994 murders of his ex-wife and her friend in a verdict that sparked outrage, was to be freed after posting bail and agreeing to surrender his passport.

"He's very relieved, very happy. He just wants to get home and be with his friends and kids," Simpson's attorney Yale Galanter told reporters following the hearing before a packed courtroom.

Galanter praised the judge's decision to release Simpson, and said there was no chance of his client trying to flee the charges.

"There is not a place on the planet where Mr Simpson could go where people would not recognise him," Galanter said, adding that his client would be freed within "six to eight hours."

Sixty-yearold former sports icon Simpson, wearing a blue prison jumpsuit and handcuffs was led into a courtroom via an underground tunnel for an appearance that had echoes of the circus-like atmosphere that accompanied his murder trial 12 years ago.

Pro-Simpson supporters gathered in groups outside the court while the prosecutor who led the murder case against him, Marcia Clark, was reported to be among interested spectators inside.

Simpson, who has been held in isolation since his arrest on Sunday, spoke in a husky voice only to confirm that he understood the charges against him and to confirm his place of residence.

He has been charged with 11 offenses, including two counts of conspiracy to commit kidnapping with a deadly weapon, two counts of robbery with a deadly weapon and assault with a deadly weapon. He could be jailed for life if convicted on the kidnapping charges.

A further hearing has been set for October 22.

The charges stem from an incident at a Las Vegas casino hotel on Thursday, when a gang of gun-toting men that included Simpson is reported to have stormed into a hotel room and snatched sporting memorabilia from two dealers.

In interviews prior to his arrest Simpson denied robbery, saying he was only recovering items that had been illegally stolen from him. He also denied that anyone in the group was armed.

On a tape that surfaced in US media reports on Monday, a man identified as Simpson could be heard angrily confronting the two sports memorabilia dealers.

Several unidentified voices are heard barking aggressive, expletive-laden demands at the victims of the heist, Alfred Beardsley and Bruce Fromong.

In a further twist to the case it emerged late Tuesday that Fromong had been hospitalized in Los Angeles after suffering a massive heart attack.

Officials at Cedars Sinai Medical Center were not immediately available for comment early Wednesday.

Meanwhile, further details of the incident emerged in a police report that was obtained by several US media outlets.

According the report at least one member of the gang impersonated a police officer, brandishing a semi-automatic weapon and warning: "I'm a cop and you're lucky this ain't L.A. or you'd be dead."

One of the most famous American football players of his generation during a glittering 1970s career that saw him set several records, Simpson was the prime suspect in the 1994 murders of his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ron Goldman.

Nicole, who had filed for divorce from Simpson in 1992 citing his "abusive behavior," was attacked so savagely that she was almost decapitated.

Simpson, who has always vehemently denied the killings, was acquitted of murder after a racially charged Los Angeles trial in 1995, a verdict that was greeted with widespread outrage across America.

Simpson was subsequently found liable for the deaths in a 1997 civil suit and was ordered to pay damages to the victims' families totaling 33.5 million dollars.

10 things never to say to a guy

1. "When will I see you again?" - You'll see him when you see him.

2. "Why didn't you call?" - There's only one answer to this question: because he didn't want to!

3. "Where were you?!" - What you're really asking is whether he was with another female.

4. Saying "I love you!" first - You're saying it in hopes he'll say it back.

5. "Did you sleep with her?" - As long as he's not sleeping with her now, who cares?! In this case, ignorance really is bliss.

6. "I'm pregnant." - There are plenty of birth control choices available. USE THEM.

7. "Where is this going?" - Nowhere fast if that's your attitude. Guys want someone fun and easy to be with, not someone that's constantly worrying about the future.

8. "We need to talk." - This is the equivalent of "Go to the principals office!" Guys know it's not going to be a fun conversation & are already on the defense.

9. "I hate you!" - Even if you do, be mature enough to talk about it.

10. "I don't trust you!" - What you're actually saying is, You need to step up your game, because I can see you're up to something. If he is up to something, he'll just become even sneakier. Better to think smart and act dumb- it'll be easier to get the evidence you need to confirm your suspicions.

Still need advice, freshmen?! Check out page 4!!

Any ideas for the "10 Things" on the front page?! Submit ideas to TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Inside

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Opinion page 4 & 5
A&E page 6
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The "real world" awaits

Nicki DeMagistris
Voice Reporter

On Wednesday, September 12, students, faculty and staff were invited to gather in the Scanlon Banquet Hall where more than 20 local organizations displayed themselves at Westfield State College's Annual Community Service Fair. This gathering helps bridge the gap between the college campus and the overall community by displaying available volunteer and internship opportunities within the area. Kathi Bradford, the Associate Director of Residential Life, explains that this event provides an, "opportunity for FYE (First Year Experience) students to meet the groups and sign up to fulfill their required six hours [of community service] for the class." FYE students weren't the only students to take advantage of fair. Organizations came with valuable internship opportunities for upperclassmen to take advantage of as well.

Spokespeople of the various organizations, including the Girl Scouts of Pioneer Valley, Community Resources for People with Autism and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, were available to talk to students, who got their questions answered from the direct source. By doing this, students can now consider what organizations fit them best.

The Community Service Fair was also a good opportunity for students to become familiar with the college's Community Service Clearinghouse, which provides a central meeting place for organizations and individuals to communicate their needs. By simply completing an on-line profile, students are able to search listings of organizations at their convenience, while receiving notifications of career events and fairs. The experience students can gain from reaching out to the community will be extremely valuable when it comes time to make it in the "real world."

For more information about community involvement in the area, visit Westfield State College's Webpage, www.wsc.ma.edu and follow the link for the Community Service Clearinghouse.



College Community Memorial Service

Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend services planned by friends, colleagues, and family to celebrate the life of

Elizabeth R. Connolly, Class of 2009

Sunday, September 23

Mass: noon
Memorial Service: 1:00 p.m.
Wilson Auditorium A

Liz was an education major from Shrewsbury who passed away this summer.

During the service, those in attendance will be invited to share thoughts, stories and memories of Liz.
If you plan to speak, please bring a written copy of your remarks to add to a book for Liz's family.

In tribute to Liz's love of pink, you are invited to make that color part of your attire for the service.

The Orientation Team has pink bracelets available for a small donation to Liz's Memorial Fund.
If you would like to purchase a bracelet, please contact Kathi Bradford, Residential Life, ext. 5404.

Editor's Desk



I'm surprised that this has already become an issue, with only two papers published (this being the third), but it IS an issue, and I'm going to address it now so I don't need to later on.

As Editor-in-Chief, I take a lot of pride in the paper. It's entirely student run, void of compensation or academic credit. My roommates think I'm crazy for putting so much time and effort into The Voice, but I tell them I do it because I love it. That and nothing else.

So, you can understand when a professor walks into my office, holding a copy of the first issue in his hand, and explains to me that he uses it as an example for his students on "how not to write" that I'm going to take that personally. You may say it's not a personal attack against me, but it is. It is not only rude, but also unnecessary. I am completely aware that there are errors in this paper. I'm not a professional and neither are the copy editors who pore over the pages every Wednesday night for me.

If you're going to criticize me, go ahead. But be constructive about it. I don't walk into YOUR office and tell you that you misspelled a word on your syllabus, or, essentially that you suck at your job for one reason or another. It's rude and disrespectful. So, because I'm a student, it's okay to do it to me?

It's also come to my attention that professors have awarded their students extra credit for finding all the errors in the paper. At first I was going to award anyone who found five errors in the paper their own personal pizza. Then, I thought, 'Wow...that's a lot of pressure on me. That means I'll actually have to do a half-ass job at checking for spelling and grammar mistakes.' AND I wouldn't want to disappoint any professors by going that extra mile and eliminating a portion of their teaching tools.

Bottom line: I do my job and I do it well. There are going to be spelling errors. There are going to be grammar mistakes. And I can live with that. I'm all for criticism, but only when it's beneficial. Being rude is not.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Westfield Day at the Big E

Thursday, September 27

Westfield Day at the Big E: Westfield State salutes Criminal Justice programs, faculty and alumni; Hospitality Tent; Parade; $10 ticket to the Big E

2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield

Commuters kick off the school year right

Nicki DeMagistris
Voice Reporter

Although originally planned to take place, Tuesday, September 11, the commuter population of Westfield State College united for an old-fashioned barbeque to kickoff the new school year on Thursday, September 13. On what turned out to be a beautiful day for a barbeque, many commuters found themselves enjoying a classic lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages, chips and even delicious cookies, all provided by the commuter council.

Although often coming and going, balancing jumbled schedules and hectic errands, commuters are always invited to attend any campus events. These planned events are intended for ALL students, not only residents.

A list of other upcoming commuter and campus events, along with other important commuter information, is posted at Westfield State College's Webpage, www.wsc.ma.edu.

Hot dog stand offers WSC students a new way to chow down late night

Mike Coughlin
Photography Editor

After a late night in downtown Westfield, nothing satisfies intoxicated college students like one of Ed's Steamed Hot Dogz. At two dollars, there isn't a better deal in town. Choose from chili, cheese, sauerkraut, ketchup, mustard, relish or onions for no extra cost.

Feel a little risky? Spend an extra buck and get a Blue Seal Kielbasa. Chips are fifty cents; bottled water or canned soda (coke products) for only a buck. So save that tip your going to give that cute bartender and stop by for one of Ed's Steam Hot Dogz.



Mike Arki, a senior at WSC, enjoys one of Ed's steamed hot dogs after a late night at Tommy D's in downtown Westfield.

Photo by Mike Coughlin

University of Florida student Tasered, arrested during John Kerry forum

AP Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A University of Florida student was Tasered and arrested Monday when he attempted to speak at a forum with U.S. Sen. John Kerry during a question and answer session, university officials said.

Andrew Meyer, 21, asked Kerry why he did not contest the 2004 presidential election, which he lost to President Bush, and why there had been no moves to impeach Bush.

"He apparently asked several questions — he went on for quite awhile — then he was asked to stop," university spokesman Steve Orlando said. "He had used his allotted time. His microphone was cut off then he became upset."

While as many as four police officers tried to remove Meyer from the forum, he yelled for help and asked "What did I do?" Minutes after Meyer started speaking, he was Tasered.



Sept. 17: Student Andrew Meyer struggles with University Police trying to remove him from a question and answer session with Sen. John Kerry. http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,297126,00.html

Meyer was charged with resisting an officer and disturbing the peace, according to Alachua County jail records. No bond had been set. Meyer was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday morning, a jail official said.

Orlando said university police would conduct an internal investigation on the incident.

"The police department does have a standard procedure for when they use force, including when they use a Taser," Orlando said. "That is what the internal investigation would address — whether the proper procedures were followed, whether the officers acted appropriately."

The event was sponsored by the UF student government speaker's bureau, according to a news release. A telephone message left at the speaker's bureau office was not immediately returned Monday evening.

It was not known if Meyer had an attorney.

How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

All of us in Career Services look forward to the academic year and wish you great success in reaching your academic and professional goals. As you settle in, we hope you will take time to drop by and meet our staff. In the meantime, we appreciate the opportunity to bring you the Career Corner in The Voice. Each week, we will brief you on programs, resources and events that will help you plan and prepare for your chosen careers.

The Career Center, located in Lammers Hall, is open daily to serve students and alumni. Many undergraduates think the resources are just for seniors. In fact, we can work closely with you at all stages of your education, as you explore career options, select or change a major/minor, consider experiential education opportunities, and plan your job search.

For those in the exploratory stages, a few web-based tools might be helpful. Have you checked out "What Can I do with a Major in?" This great resource, available on the Career Service website, can be very useful. Over 60 majors are covered, from Accounting to Urban Studies. Areas of specialization or focus within the major are outlined, along with information on the types of employers that typically hire individuals with these majors. A number of online links are listed, featuring professional associations and related resources.

FOCUS, an online tool, can help you:

Analyze your career planning status.

Assess your interests, skills, work values, personality, and preferences.

Discover and explore occupations, career paths, and education programs compatible with your personal attributes.

Map out your career and educational goals, action plans, personal development and training needs.

Students can log on 24/7 with the key code "owls". A follow-up meeting with a Career Counselor is recommended.

Our "Job Web" Career Library has a complete section on Majors & Career with articles on a wide range of topics, including myths about federal jobs, careers in chemistry, marketing your liberal arts career and opportunities in law enforcement.

Facts on File, a new addition, provides detailed profiles of more than 3,300 jobs and 94 industries, invaluable advice on career skills, more than 48,000 resource entries, and much more! You will find great articles for your review – you may want to check out "First Impressions Create Lasting Impressions."

Visit the Career Services website for easy access to these tools. The earlier you start working with a Career Counselor, the better. A careful, thoughtful and organized approach will lower your stress level and bring greater rewards.

Call or email the Career Center to schedule an appointment – we are enthusiastic about working with you!

Phone: 413. 572.5206
Email: careers@wsc.ma.edu
Web: wsc.ma.edu/careerservices

Career Center Professional Staff

Maureen McCartney
Junior Delgado
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Will 50 Cent quit music?

And is it too much to hope?



Dan Sullivan

Casual Observer

Oh, 50. It had to happen sometime.

For those of you not "in the know," 50 Cent famously declared not long ago that if Kanye West's "*Graduation*" outsold his "*Curtis*" in first day sales (both were released on Sept. 11), then he would quit music. The numbers are in, and Kanye came out on top. So what does this mean? Do we hold Mr. Cent to his word? And if not, can we?

I've long predicted that 50's stint as the fake Biggie that he is would come to a halt sooner or later. I mean, I would've guessed sooner—but I guess in an age where someone like Lil' Wayne—the musical equivalent of an aborted fetus—could be polled as the nation's number one rapper, hip hop fans need *something* to turn to as an alternative.

50 has long tried to echo the late, great, Notorious B.I.G., and some not-so-savvy record buyers have actually even bought it. Here's the problem: Biggie exuded charm, even while discussing the finer points of drug running and gun-busting. He was crude and offensive, sure, and he propelled the "gangster mentality" I'm usually so quick to decry to new heights. But Biggie was a Sinatra-style gangster. His wordplay was so clever it was almost irresistible. He spoke of crack-slinging with all the finesse of Cary Grant, and he mined his cold-blooded "Teflon Don" alter ego from the likes of Christopher Walken (Frank White in 1990's *King of New York*), and Calvin Lockhart (Biggie Smalls in 1975's *Let's Do It Again*, a blue collar comedy starring Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby). He was the kind of guy that could have worked a red carpet as effortlessly as, say, George Clooney, if that had been his forte.

50 is a thug too, but an average one. His street credentials are derived more from his back story, centered mainly on his unlikely survival of being shot nine times while robbing his grandmother's house (yes, you heard that right). In this month's Rolling Stone interview, 50 states with no hesitation that he "never got into this for the music," and laughs blindly in the face of artists who claim to make music for themselves, or for pure artistic value. And while materialism has always been rampant in mainstream hip hop (see also: "Make It Rain"), a man who chooses only to make music for a notoriously fickle audience is eventually going to fall on his sword—and this one's been a long time coming. 50 is the epitome of our cultural fascination that has made it so any two-bit thug can be a rapper. However, that doesn't mean they'll be a good one, and it certainly doesn't guarantee them any kind of longevity. And while his Vitamin Water deal probably will keep him from having to sell his Farmington, CT mansion any time soon (the company was recently bought out by Coca-Cola for over four billion dollars), with any luck I can at least look forward not having to listen to his ugly lisp on my TV unless it's years from now on a re-run of VH1's *I Love the 2000's*.

Indeed, no matter how many bullet scars, not every local hood has the intellectual credentials to make it from, as the Notorious himself said, "ashy to nasty to classy." Amen to that.

A one person riot:

UF student journalist tasered



Molly Pappas

Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Meyers, the student journalist from the University of Florida, received national press Tuesday for throwing what I can only describe as the world's biggest temper tantrum, and then getting tasered by the UPD police.

When I first learned of this incident, I was outraged. How dare ANYONE try to quiet the voice of a journalist just doing his job! But then I saw the videos on YouTube...

Senator John Kerry was a guest speaker on the university campus where Meyers was present. He apparently monopolized the microphone, running on and on with unnecessary tangents before ever reaching his question. The audience, and even Kerry himself were getting restless.

After being asked to step away from the microphone for, yet again, rambling on, Meyers grew agitated and refused to stop talking. As a result, his mic was cut, and the child-like fit began.

I feel that there is a professional way to handle situations. Clearly, Meyers wasn't for that approach. If he felt that his First Amendment rights were being violated, he could have expressed that – minus the screaming and resisting the police. Meyers was causing a scene, and he knew it. If he wasn't going to get the time he thought he deserved with Kerry, he sure as hell was going to make sure the attention stayed on himself.

Do I think Meyers was wrong in how he reacted? Yes. Do I think it was appropriate to taser him? Um...not so much.

He was face down, on the ground, with several officers physically subduing him, yet UPD *still* felt it necessary to taser him. His screams of pain echoed off the auditorium walls and students present began to become distraught. In one of the videos, you can even hear a female student screaming, "STOP! Why are you doing that?!"

Yes, UPD Police, why *DID* you do that? Their answer: Meyers caused a riot.

Last time I checked, you need more than one person to cause a riot.

To The Freshmen



Kayla Cournoyer

Voice Columnist

With Add/Drop now over I am sure that many of you are stuck in classes that you aren't too fond of. Now, I am also sure that there are a few of you who think you have absolutely perfect schedules and you love your classes and your teachers. Just so you know, you are among few and I am happy for you.

But back to those who are having troubles with classes. You can't let that get you down. I know that a lot of the classes you are all taking this semester are a part of the WSC core and not classes that you are actually interested in. Well, just remember that there really aren't that many core classes and the sooner you get them over with, the sooner you can move on to concentrate on your major.

My advice to you is not to predetermine your classes. Just because you are stuck in a class that you have no interest in doesn't mean that you should just blow it off. Even though it may become very easy to just not go to the class and skip your homework, it is not a very good idea.

Even core classes affect your G.P.A. If you decide early in your college career to blow off a class, you will have to spend a lot of time trying to fix your G.P.A. and won't have the easy-going senior year that every college kid dreams of.

I know this all sounds a little ridiculous to you now because how can one class in your first semester effect the rest of your college life? Well, I know when I was a freshman I blew off a class and it brought my G.P.A. down enough for me to lose one of my grants.

So, even if you know that the class you are taking has nothing to do with your major or minor, just remember that everything you do does affect your G.P.A. Even if you are happy with average grades and a G.P.A. lower that a 3.0, not all scholarship committees are happy with that. Most of them require a 3.0 or higher.

With that said, just remember that every class counts for something. So as you go into your classes try to be an active participant, or at least do the homework. Don't just blow it off because you don't have the perfect schedule.

It's your election...



Kristi Mientka

Voice Columnist

George W. Bush, famed for his malapropisms, once said, "It's your money. You paid for it."

Money and finance are terms being tossed around a lot lately in the world of politics. As the race for the presidential election heats up, we're hearing a lot about campaign finance.

This week, it was announced that Hillary Clinton returned $850,000 to donor Norman Hsu. According to the Washington Post, Clinton returned the money because it was discovered that Hsu, a Democratic fundraiser, had been involved in an investment fraud plot during the 1990s.

Eight hundred fifty thousand dollars seems like a lot of money, doesn't it? As it turns out, this is just a tiny fraction of the money presidential candidates are receiving from donors.

The Washington Post reported back in April that, as of April 15, Clinton's campaign had raised $26,041,109.

She's not the only one rolling in dough. Barack Obama, her competitor for the Democratic nomination, had raised $25,661,047 by that date.

The Post shows that altogether, the eight Democratic candidates had raised $78,470,733. The Republican party had raised $53,204,874. Those numbers are still going up.

Why put all that money into a campaign?

It's been over two years since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and much of the Gulf Coast remains in ruins. Why can't the money go there instead?

According to National Public Radio, about 38 million people in the U.S. are "food insecure," meaning they can't always afford to eat. Why can't the campaign money go to causes to end hunger?

Students across America have trouble affording college every year. Why can't the money go to them, to invest in their education and thus, the future of our country?

Where is the money going?

Tom Curry, a writer for MSNBC, reported in April that about 75 percent of the millions of dollars these candidates raise goes into campaign advertising.

In other words, these millions of dollars are being spent simply to boost popularity.

The money comes not only from people like Norman Hsu, but from corporations like Gap (which, according to corporate watchdog Web site www.knowmore.org, contributed money to John Kerry's 2004 presidential run) and Wal-Mart (which, also according to Knowmore, contributed over $1,000,000 to the Republican party in 2003).

Think about the money you're spending. Web sites like Knowmore and www.opensecrets.org can tell you which corporations are handing out money to which candidates.

It's your election. You paid for it.

An Evening of Poetry with Ruth Ellen Kocher

September 26, 2007 6:30 P.M.
Scanlon Living Room
Ruth Ellen Kocher



Ruth Ellen Kocher is the author of One Girl Babylon (New Issues Press 2003) When the Moon Knows You're Wandering (New Issues Press, 2001) winner of the Green Rose Prize in Poetry, and Desdemona's Fire (Lotus Press 1999), winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award.

Drunk boy



Nicole Sylvester

Voice Columnist

Ladies, I'm sure you agree, there is a contagious excitement surrounding back to school. If you tell me that you didn't gear up for the return by going shopping, squeezing in a few extra days in the sun, or doing something new and exciting with your look- you must not be single.

Being single is a double-edged sword for a college girl. It is great because this is the time when there really are (if you'll excuse my cliché) so many fish in the sea. Every single girl knows where the good parties are, which streets to hit and where the place to be is on a Tuesday night. And every single girl knows where she'll find the single guys.

I, myself, am a single girl. And I wont lie- I know all these things. But I'm also hyper aware of the other side of the sword: drunk boys.

We've all been there: In a crowded room with tons of old and new friends, making eyes and conversation with whoever the boy of the moment is. You're laughing and having a good time when the scene starts to change. Your buzz starts wearing off (lets face it, we're all struggling college students and a long night can get expensive) and this hottie is not so hot. It's not that his facial features have changed, although some of us are guilty of donning beer goggles a few times too many. But this time, its him. He is no longer charming, his jokes aren't making you laugh, he's leaning in too close and his hand is on your butt and you're wondering,'Is it because he can't keep his hands off me or because he can't stand up on his own?' He is more drunk than you, much more drunk than you.

In my personal case, I've found that this is where Drunk Boys start getting rambly, touchy, and in my sober state I start getting uncomfortable. This is where I excuse myself. I have to pee, or run outside for some fresh air. When I come back, I find my Drunk Boy has already moved onto another female. I see him schmoozing, stumbling and grabbing.

I never find that this exchange hurts, its more disheartening. In this moment I realize, Drunk Boys aren't very picky or maybe they aren't able to discern between girls at all. This is not an insult to the fellow female Drunk Boy has picked up on, but more a warning bell because for me this is a sign that Drunk Boy doesn't care who he goes home with. Which simply means I can't know who he's gone home with before.

As I said, it's a bit disheartening. I made a conscious decision to stick with Drunk Boys I know and love and stay away from new hotties or new possibilities. Because I don't see how it can end well.

Later on this particular night, I happened to notice an exchange between a Drunk Boy I am acquainted with and a Drunk Girl. (Which is a completely different subject in itself because deep down, we're all Drunk Girls). But this particular exchange was Drunk Girl asking Drunk Boy to come home with her. I give the girl credit, she gave it her all. But Drunk Boy said no. Not as an insult but as a sign of respect. I had no idea that Drunk Boys could make such responsible decisions.

Ladies, there is hope.

12th ANNUAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Westfield State College

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

1:30pm - 4:00pm

Woodward Athletic Center

Agencies Attending as of 9/17/07

Amherst MA Police Department
Army ROTC
Barnstable Police Department
Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
Berkshire Juvenile Court
Burlington Police Department
CMD Community Assistance Program
Chesterfield County Police Department
Community Resources for Justice
Community Solutions
Connecticut State Police
CT Department of Corrections
Dudley District Court Probation
Dunn & Phillips, P.C.
East Hartford Police Department
Essex County Sheriff's Department
Fairfax County Police Department
Federal Air Marshal's
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Greenville Police Department
Hampden County District Attorney-Victim Witness Program
Hampden County Sheriff's Department
Hampden County Superior Court-Probation
Hampshire Sheriff's Office
Hartford Police Department
Hillcrest Educational Centers
Holyoke-Chicopee-Springfield Head Start Inc
Keene Police Department
Key Programs Inc
Kohl's Department Stores
Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse
MA Department of Corrections
Maine State Police
Massachusetts Air National Guard
Massachusetts Army National Guard
Massachusetts School of Law
New Hampshire State Police
New York State Police
NOVA Veterans Office for Law Enforcement
Palmer District Court-Probation Department
Portland Police Department
Pyramid Management Group Holyoke Mall Security
Reference Home Inc
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South Burlington Police
Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Target Corporation
The Bridge of Central MA Inc
The Children's Study Home
The May Institute
The New England Center for Children
The Town of Enfield Police Department
Town of Manchester
Town of West Hartford
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Department of State
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
United States Marine Corps
University of Massachusetts Police Department
U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network
Westfield Police Department
Windsor Police Department
Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.

The WSC Bookstore v. Sara Charbonneau



Sara Charobonneau

Voice Columnist

747.00 dollars. In my quest of getting books for this upcoming fall semester for a decent price, I began my research this morning, searching the college website as well as other book sites online. That's how much my five classes worth of books cost on the Westfield State College bookstore website. $747.00. SEVEN HUNDRED and FDRTY-SEVEN dollars. Let me break that number down for you.

I'm taking the normal amount of classes for a college student. As a Business major, I've come to expect the bookstore to try to take advantage of me and the rest of my classmates because well, they need to make money too. That's how a bookstore operates. They receive their books wholesale, tack on about 40%, and then sell them to their students who either don't know any better, or are just too lazy to search on Amazon or Half.com to get them cheaper. However, there comes a time when enough is ENDUGH.

My five classes include Production and Dperations Management. That book will cost me $149.75. Labor Relations will cost me $142.25; Investments will cost me $168.50; Business Strategy and Policy will cost me $167.75; International Business will cost me $118.75. Five classes, none of which costs less than DNE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN dollars.

Let's do some comparative analysis. For seven hundred and forty seven dollars, I can get the following:

1. 41 Years worth of Cosmopolitan Magazine subscriptions;
2. With gas at $2.69 and an 11 gallon tank being filled every 2 weeks, with 52 weeks per year, I can fill up approximately 25.5 times; therefore, gas would last me pretty much until next September;
3. A new Coach bag complete with change purse, wallet, and matching wristlet;
4. I can get 83 Wildberry and Mango margaritas at Applebees – including tips!;
5. I can pay my car payment for the next 5 months;
6. I can pay my car insurance payments for the next 11 months; or
7. Hell, I'm only $223 away from paying my entire tuition for the financial aid year of 2007-2008!

All of this. For BDDKS. FDR DNE SEMESTER. In long conversations about how college is supposed to be helping us acquire our degrees so that we can go on and be successful adults, it's becoming clearer that colleges are trying to screw us. It takes a long time to make money, and colleges across the nation are having no problem getting their greedy little paws all over it. It's no wonder why it takes college graduates almost 20 years to pay off their student loans, while simultaneously forced to move back in with their parents and work overly-stressful yet high paying jobs right out of school! College is getting to be too expensive, and they're no longer shameful about flaunting it while students are still in the classrooms. First and foremost, they increase the price tags on something every college student needs – their books.

Last year, because I had been dreading taking my math classes, I was forced into taking two in one semester. While one professor, bless his heart, chose to write his own book and just give it to us, the other professor asked us to buy the newest edition of a particular math book. This is what bothers me. Why the newest edition? Math DDESN'T CHANGE. 1+1 will always equal 2, so why do we HAVE to purchase the BRAND NEW edition? Did 1+1 suddenly equal 3, and that's why we can't use the 2005 edition? No. Maybe books such as Biology, or recent History books have an excuse, but not many other classes. Not math, which is generally set in stone.

Lastly, just to prove my point a bit further, I had gotten an earlier edition of a Management book from a friend a few semesters ago. When I took that class last semester, the professor asked us to purchase the newer edition. When I asked him if I could use the earlier edition, just one edition earlier, he agreed, since I already had the book. *The only thing that had changed was the switching around of 3 or 4 chapters.* The bookstore was selling the new book for around $125 dollars. Half.com was selling the old one for $17.95. I walked into the classroom not only feeling ready to learn, but cringing for the other students who spent over $100 more for pretty much the exact same thing. Where is this going stop?

In my Senior year now, I'm dreading the thought of having to send my kids to school in 20-25 years. How much are they going to inflate the cost by then?!! Will one hardcover Management book cost me $500? $1,000?? This is getting ridiculous. If the book makers want to increase the font by .0001 or throw in a few more pretty pictures, that's fine by me. But soon enough, they won't be able to tread this water lightly. Soon enough, we as students are going to have to stand up and say NO. Seven hundred and forty seven dollars. How is that fair?

Hop onboard the '3:10 To Yuma'

Bill George
The Movie Dude



photo courtesy of www.dogstreetjournal.com

5 Stars out of 5

From the opening credits that demand your attention, to the emotional and pulse-pounding finale, "3:10 To Yuma" does everything right. And I do mean everything. James Mangold has out done himself with this remake of a 1957 western about a ranch hand helping authorities transport an outlaw. Christian Bale plays the rancher, Dan Evans, who is in a tough spot financially and agrees to help on this dangerous mission for $200. Russell Crowe plays the incomparable Ben Wade, a sophisticated thief and murderer headed to the 3:10 train to Yuma prison. Along the way, Wade's henchmen attempt to free him from his captors multiple times throughout their two day trek across Arizona.

Crowe and Bale truly become Wade and Evans. I've been seeing the same actors over and over again on the big screen for years. But after leaving the theater at the close of this film, I found myself referring to the characters by their actual character name, and not by the star that portrayed them. It was such a breath of fresh air to become so engulfed in a story that I lost myself in it.

I could go on and on about the performances in this movie - then again, I could go on and on about every aspect of this film. Name a facet of filmmaking and I'll tell you how well handled it is here. The musical score? Pitch perfect western music that keeps the audience riveted. The pacing? Perfectly timed. Always interesting, never a slow moment. The dialogue? Smart and memorable. Instantly quotable. The story? Elegant in its simplicity and unforgettable in its execution.

"3:10 To Yuma" is by far the best film of the post-summer season and one of the best films of the year. The western has been dead in American culture for years, with the exceptions of "Unforgiven" and more recently "Open Range". Let's hope that "3:10 To Yuma" can lead a movement towards the resurrection of the genre. There have been far too many computer generated animals and far too few gunslingers in theaters these past few years...

BOTTOM LINE: "3:10 to Yuma" instantly became one of my favorite films. Go see it. Period.

*For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieD

CD Review
The Foo Fighters

Chris Dondoros
A&E Editor



photo courtesy of www.ew.com

Alright, so I might be a little biased with this review. The Foo Fighters have always been one of my favorite bands; in fact, I still remember hearing early, Nirvana-esque rockers like "I'll Stick Around" on the radio as a kid. While I've come to dislike (and that's the understatement of the century) what's considered "mainstream rock" these days, the Foo's have always retained a special place in my heart. Not only does their latest release "Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace" further distance Grohl & Co. from their modern rock counterparts, it proves that these veterans are miles beyond.

No, this is not another "In Your Honor". This is not another "The Colour and the Shape". This album is not an example of a band recycling their best material in order to re-capture a fan base; it's an example of a band's evolution over the course of many years and subsequent albums. From the opening notes of "Pretender," the album's first single, it's obvious that this is indeed a Foo Fighters' album, complete with crashing drums, distorted guitars, and Grohl's distinctive sense of melody.

There are a number of things that set this album apart from previous releases. First and foremost, the level of instrumental complexity at least by the Foo's standards, has been kicked up a notch. While this album isn't a self-indulgent wankfest by any means (this isn't the Smashing Pumpkins) it does have its share of complex guitar leads and – gasp - even the occasional solo, done in good taste. The songwriting is also kicked up a notch with the Foo's not shying away from acoustic numbers reminiscent of Skin and Bones, the occasional piano ballad or spare string arrangements that compliment Grohl's voice perfectly.

Overall, 4.5/5

Recommended tracks: Pretender, Long Road to Ruin, The Ballad Of The Beaconsfield, Statues, Home

Editor's Desk



Has anyone else noticed how fast the weekends seem to be going by this year? Or even the weeks for that matter? Does anyone else feel like they just don't have enough time in the day for homework and being able to see their friends, or even have a job? I pretty much feel like I'm going crazy. But hey, this is college after all!

First off, I just want to say THANK YOU to all you fabulous people who attended The Voice interest meeting. Molly and I were so excited to see so many people interested in the paper. It was the best turnout that it has seen in years!

Second, thank God it's finally cooler out. I was pretty sure I was going to die those few hot days we had last week. Especially with no AC. It's about time that it's cool enough for sweatshirts and sweatpants. I could even see my hreath last night walking to my apartment.

Well, I know I'm rambling, but every now and then I might actually have something meaningful to say, so keep checking! I might even rant about a few things every now and then, like how my window shade fell off last night and we discovered it was attached by masking tape (kids, this CLEARLY doesn't bold on a window shade, so don't try it). Good for Westfield; I'm so glad they keep everything functioning!

Until next time,

Eryn Carter
Managing Editor
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.



Colleges ditching twin beds for doubles

VALERIE STRAUSS
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Accustomed to sleeping on a queen-size, 60-by-80-inch water bed at home, Elissa Robinson got a rude awakening when she headed off to college: a twin-size bed, somewhere around 38-by-75 inches, with a mattress that had seen better days.

This fall, three years after living with a very used, somewhat stained mattress, the 21-year-old senior got a new bed from officials at American University: a double bed, 54-by-80 inches.

"If I had a twin bed, I'd have more space" in the room, "but this is much, much better," said Robinson, who grew up in Oakton, Va. "It's where I sleep, do my homework and everything else. It's just more of an adult thing to have a bigger bed."

University officials hoping to keep students on campus and compete with off-campus housing are trying new room designs and all manner of amenities to appeal to the millennial generation, especially those seeking the comforts of home while in school. Some have given single rooms to students not used to sharing. Others have offered maid service and microwaves. Now they're giving them a larger space on which to lay their heads.

"The trend seems to be that there is more competition among different schools for the student body — I guess literally — with larger beds," said Ryan Trainer, executive vice president of the nonprofit International Sleep Products Association.

Once, everyone got a twin bed (although some schlepped larger mattresses from home to squeeze into their rooms). Not anymore, said Nancy Shark, executive director of the Better Sleep Council, the nonprofit consumer-education arm of the International Sleep Products Association.

Trainer said some manufacturers have noticed a change in orders, with universities ordering the bigger beds when space permits.

"It's amazing," 20-year-old AU sophomore Matt Valdivia, used to sleeping in twins at home in Seattle and at school, said of his new double bed. "Now I can be alive and fit on the bed in every direction. ... And it is easier to fit multiple people."

At AU, the move toward double beds came after complaints by students that the twins were too small and too childish, said Rick Treter, director of residence life. When a dorm designed with suites of larger single bedrooms was built, the double beds were the ticket. They went to about 115 upperclassmen through a room lottery. Whenever renovation and new construction allow, more double beds will be ordered.

"Our students are constantly giving feedback about having to sleep on a single bed," Treter said. "Many of them are not coming from single beds. Many come from doubles and queens, so they have to readjust to living on the single bed."

The first doubles arrived at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro this school year in response to student requests and focus groups, said Mary L. Hummel, director of housing and residence life. Some students, used to larger beds at home, thought the twins were "too small and uncomfortable." The larger beds "accommodate students more comfortably, especially taller students, and better meet student needs," she added.

Treter said students also indicated "that sometimes they are not in the bed alone." And, he added, "people are larger now."

Students entering college today are heavier than their counterparts 20 years ago. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the prevalence of adolescents 12 to 19 listed as overweight more than tripled between 1980 and 2004. And studies show that college students actually get larger while in school. Seventy percent of students gain an average of nine pounds by the end of sophomore year, according to one study.

Many universities moved from standard twin beds to longer versions several years ago because students complained they were uncomfortable. But the extra-long beds have not been without controversy. For one thing, they're not all the same dimensions. Some beds at the University of Southern California are 36 inches wide, while other twins are 38 or 39 inches. USC's extended twins are 80 inches long. AU's are 84. Those at Pitzer College, a liberal-arts college in Claremont, Calif., are 78.

Now that Robinson has a double, she has brought from home a large quilt her mother made for her years ago from her old T-shirts. It was too big for a twin, but it works well on the double.

"I think I do sleep better now," she said. "And it's definitely much easier to have another person in the bed if the occasion arises."

Protestant Chaplain's Column

I enjoy living in a time and place where food can be enjoyed many different ways.

One development that the gastronomic side of myself appreciates is the blending together of very different foods that at first seem to clash but when combined result in some yummy meals. Buffalo wings and pizza ten years ago would have been served separately. If someone had suggested combining them together, the response might well have been, "yuk." Now it isn't unusual to find a pizza parlor serving buffalo chicken pizza. For the adventurous food lover, experimenting with different foods helps to open a person to new discoveries that makes life more interesting and enjoyable.

Yes, there are bad food experiences, but these don't stop the hope for enjoyment of the next meal. The food lover learns that certain places should be avoided and certain combinations do not work.

Variety isn't limited to food but pervades the whole of life: music, clothing, occupations, movies and so forth. In all areas, we see blending taking place. A person can enjoy both rap and classical, maybe not at the same time...then again...

Variety also exists with our spiritual beliefs and values.

Aware individuals look around and see truths in many places. They also practice self-examination.

All of the great religions have truths. All have also abused truth in some way.

My opinion--The foolish person takes the previous statement and uses it as an excuse to reject all religion as false. The wise person acknowledges the above and then practices self-examination and opens themselves to learning new ways to bring richness and depth into life—building on strengths rather than weaknesses.

As a Protestant Christian Minister, maybe I'm supposed to tell you that there is only one way, but I can't. As I say these words, I am aware that some will reject me as not being a true believer. Still, I believe there are many spiritual truths. We need to open ourselves to hearing them and seeing if they blend with each other and with our lives.

On a personal level, I start with the following claim--I am a follower of Christ and unabashedly so. As a follower of Christ I regularly worship with other Christians. I find the values, spirit and truths that Jesus taught lend deep and profound meaning to my life. I also believe that Jesus and his ways may also be for you.

For now, it is enough for me to hope that the words I have written will lead you to examine the spiritual side of yourself and to ask what may bring more meaning into your life. This may include a blending of very different traditions.

It is my intention to continue this discussion in the next issue of The Voice.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. I also maintain office hours most mornings at the church between the two campuses. You are welcome to join me in worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

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Bite the cold: Work hard

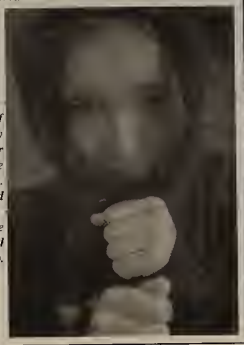
Mike Coughlin
Photography Editor

"When you want something in life, you have to work hard for it," says WSC sophomore Bailey Hunter. Hunter is on the Co-Ed Cheerleading team at the College.

"I love practicing at this time (dusk), the sky is beautiful and there is a bite in the air which adds a mental factor to my conditioning. Not only am I creating a strong body but also a strong mind."

Every year the Co-Ed Cheerleading team travels to Disney World to compete in the College National Cheerleading Championship. "It's important that we all stay in shape, we go up against some great competition from all over the country. I make sure I work hard at practice and away from practice. Hard work is why I'm so successful. I think if everyone worked a little harder the world would be a better place," said Hunter.

Keep an eye out for dates where the competition team performs at the Woodward Center later in the fall semester.



Bailey Hunter is practicing outside the back of Dickinson Hall Sunday at sundown. Hunter bites the cold as she conditions with jumps. The Co-Ed Cheerleading team travels to Florida for the UCA National Championship.



Curry beats Westfield, 42-27

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

WESTFIELD- Both quarterbacks combined for more than 600 yards of offense in a game that was fun to watch, but ultimately a loss for Westfield, 42-27, to Curry this past Saturday.

After being shutout in last years game against Curry, the Owls wasted no time in putting points on the board. On the first drive of the game, junior quarterback Dan Cohen drove the offense to the goal line, and full back, P.J. Malone, ran it in from two yards out to make it a 6-0 Owl lead.

On Curry's first drive they went four and out after a sack from sophomore defensive lineman, Matt Fall. Curry's senior punter, Dave Vincent, then proceeded to shank the punt giving the Owls great field position at the Curry 45 yard line.

In one minute Westfield would be in the end zone on a 30-yard strike from Cohen to senior wide receiver, Scott McIntrye, making the score 13-0 Westfield halfway through the first quarter.

Curry's junior quarterback, Ryan Van De Giesen, struck right back on the next drive. Throwing three straight passes to junior wide receiver Brian Taylor, including a 40 yard touchdown pass to make the score 13-7.

Curry would take the lead with two minutes left in the first quarter on another touchdown pass from De Giesen, this time to senior fullback Frank Pecheco.

The shootout was back on in the second quarter for both teams. Westfield junior wide receiver, David Benoit, who had 11 receptions for 164 yards and two touchdowns, started the second quarter with a 19 yard touchdown catch to make the score 20-14 Owls.

Sophomore running back, Jamaal Woods, would give Curry the lead on the next drive. Running in from 19 yards out to make the score 21-20 Curry.

The Owls offense was not done though; getting the ball back before halftime they put together a 10-play drive. Capping it off with Cohen's third touchdown pass on the day, again to Benoit making the score 27-21 Westfield at halftime.

The second half was much more one sided as Curry began to control the clock, and their defense started to make plays.

After swapping possessions early in the third quarter, the Curry offense got hot again, however, not through the air. A combination of rushes from Woods, DiFabio, and even De Giesen, and Curry was in the end zone. The drive would eat up five minutes of the clock along the way, and making the score 28-27 Curry.

On Westfield's next drive Curry's defense started to make some plays. Westfield would give up a costly fumble that would be returned 75 yards for a touchdown, giving Curry a 35-27 lead.

For the rest of the game Curry's defense would keep Westfield in check while their offense ate up the clock. In the fourth quarter De Giesen would get his fourth touchdown pass of the day making it 42-27 Curry and it would end that way.

The Owl's record now stands at 1-1 and they are on the road this week against Coast Guard.

Trinity trounces Westfield, 7-2

WESTFIELD – Senior forward Marisa Shutte (Allentown, Pa.) scored three goals and Trinity erupted for five second-half goals to cruise to a 7-2 victory over Westfield State in non-conference field hockey action Tuesday evening, Sept. 18.

Shutte scored 39 seconds into the game and Karli Del Rossi (Mantua, N.J.) tallied 12 minutes later to stake the 3-1 visitors to an early 2-0 lead.

But Westfield came charging back to tie the score in the first half on an breakaway goal by freshman Rachel Dionne (Feeding Hills, Mass.) and a penalty stroke goal by freshman Kasey Bascetta (Granby, Conn.).

Trinity then ripped off five straight goals in the second half, including four in a nine-minute span.

Freshman Christina Bradley (Wellesley, Mass.) tallied a goal and two assists and Del Rossi and junior Emily Skipp (Middlebury, Conn.) both had a goal and an assist.

Scoring:
Trinity: Marisa Shutte, 0:39
Trinity: Karli Del Rossi, (Christina Bradley, Katie Curran), 12:08
Westfield: Rachel Dionne, 15:17
Westfield: Kim Bascetta (penalty stroke), 23:33
Trinity: Marisa Shute, (Karli Del Rossi), 41:33
Trinity: Emily Skipp (Christina Bradley), 43:38
Trinity: Christina Bradley, 48:27
Trinity: Marisa Shute (Emily Skipp), 50:14
Trinity: Brady Keeshan, 69:55

Goalie Saves:
Westfield: Cat Hanks 8 saves
Trinity: Payden Sra (1st half), 2 saves; Jillian Fraker (2nd half), 1 save



Westfield sophomore Alyssa Wesoly pushes the ball past Trinity's Karli Del Rossi

Patriots await possible penalties in spying

David Heuschkel
The Hartford Courant

Already slapped once with a severe penalty by the NFL this season, Patriots could be hit with more disciplinary action this week for allegedly videotaping Jets coaches giving defensive signals in Sunday's season opener.

ESPN's Chris Mortensen, citing league sources, reported Tuesday that NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has determined the Patriots violated league rules. However, a league official said that no verdict has been rendered.

"We've been reviewing the matter since (Monday), but no decision has been made," NFL senior vice president of public relations Greg Aiello said Tuesday night. "When the commissioner determines it's appropriate to make a decision, he'll make one."

Aiello denied a report that said Patriots coach Bill Belichick has been summoned to New York to meet with Goodell.

"That report was inaccurate," Aiello said.

Patriots Owner Robert Kraft told reporters at a charity appearance in Mansfield, Mass., "There is an investigation going on now, and perhaps an adjudication of it, and I think it would be inappropriate at this time to make any comment. When you're successful in anything, a lot of people like to try to take you down and do different things. We understand that.

"We worked very hard to try to put an organization together that we all could be proud of in New England, and we're very proud of the New England Patriots organization and the record that they've established over the last 13 seasons and one game."

ESPN.com reported the league is also reviewing possible violations regarding the number of radio frequencies the Patriots used during Sunday's 38-14 victory over the Jets.

Goodell, in his second season as commissioner, has taken an aggressive approach to ensure the NFL maintains a positive image.

According to the league bylaws, Goodell has sole authority to investigate and take disciplinary or corrective measures if the league determines a team has engaged in unfair acts. His powers include the "imposition of monetary fines and draft choice forfeitures, suspension of persons involved, and, if appropriate, the reversal of a game's result or the rescheduling of a game, either from the beginning or from the point at which the extraordinary act occurred."

The NFL confiscated a video camera and tape from a Patriots employee standing on the sideline at the Meadowlands, allegedly recording defensive signals by Jets coaches. The person with the camera has been identified as video assistant Matt Estrella.

According the Patriots media guide, Estrella is in his fourth season with the team, third as full-time video assistant. His duties include assisting in editing game and practice tapes for use by the coaches, scouts and players. He is a native of New Bedford, Mass., and earned a degree from Fitchburg State in communications and media with a concentration in video productions.

The Patriots were reportedly involved in a similar incident in November in Green Bay, Wis., where Estrella reportedly was escorted off the sideline with his video camera by a security official at Lambeau Field.

Speaking to reporters in San Diego Monday, Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson said he suspected the Patriots of foul play.

"I think that the Patriots live by the saying 'If you're not cheating, you're not trying,'" I think they live off that statement, and nothing surprises me really," Tomlinson said. "I'm not surprised because you keep hearing the different stories (and) people complaining about the stuff that they do."

The Patriots and Chargers play Sunday night at Gillette Stadium, a rematch of a January playoff game won by the Patriots 24-21 in San Diego.

Sunday against the Jets, the Patriots offensive line did an outstanding job of protecting quarterback Tom Brady, who was not sacked and hardly pressured. Jets coach Eric Mangini and several members on his staff previously worked under Belichick.

"There's cameras everywhere out there. So you don't know what's going on," Patriots cornerback Ellis Hobbs said Monday. "We look up, we're talking in the huddle even though there's a big mike sitting above your head. There's all types of things out there. So you're not really paying attention to any of that stuff. I don't think you can hide a camera like that too well if you're really shooting in on the opposing coach."

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It's Coming Wednesday .....



Students, Faculty, Staff – you can't miss this.....

Local Businesses Come to Westfield State

Wednesday September 26th, 10 AM – 3 PM
Ely Campus Center



30+ Westfield Businesses - right here in the Ely Campus Center

FREE PRIZES – Complete Coupon, Register @ Campus Center Chamber Mini-Fair

$50 Gift Certificate to The Tavern Restaurant

$25 Gift Certificate to Applebee's

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Materials, Information, Free Samples....

Some of the Businesses coming September 26th:

- Hypnosis Institute and Training
- Tirozzi's Restaurant
- Tapestry Health
- Barnes Municipal Airport
- Allen Financial Services
- Easthampton Savings Bank
- Shaker Farms Country Club
- Westfield YMCA
- Canine Learning Center
- United Savings Bank
- Beauty by Jeunique
- Carson Center for Human Services
- Abilities Unlimited
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Fri 9/21	Intramurals 12:00 p.m.to 5:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Kids Night Out Program 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 pm to 1:00 am Ely Main Lounge
Sat 9/22	Mens Soccer v. MCLA 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm Alumni Turf	Fun on the Green 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Campus Green	Red Sox v. Tampa Bay 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Ely Lower Lounge
Sun 9/23	Patriots v. Buffalo 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Ely Main Lounge	Red Sox v. Tampa Bay 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Ely Lower Lounge	Roman Catholic Sunday Mass 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Interfaith Center
Mon 9/24	Red Sox v. Tampa Bay 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Ely Lower Lounge	Intramurals 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Campus Green	Student National Education Association Meeting 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Ely Student Goverment Association Room
Tues 9/25	Intramurals 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Campus Green	Volleyball v. MCLA 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm Alumni Turf	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Center: Rock Wall
Wed 9/26	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Center: Rock Wall	Field Hockey v. Keene State 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Alumni Field	Red Sox v. Oakland 7:00 pm to 10:30pm Ely Main Lounge
Thurs 9/27	Welcome Week and Family Day 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Dever Auditorium	Red Sox v. Oakland 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Ely Lower Lounge	Karaoke Night 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm Ely Main Lounge

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime, all majors welcome!



ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | September 28, 2007 | Issue IV

Bar transportation: Safer alternative for WSC students

Jimmy Ottino
Voice Reporter

So it's a Tuesday night here at Westfield State College, you and your 21+ roommates are looking for something to do to break up this monotony. One of them suggests to go downtown - to Fin McCool's, Whip City Brew, or even Tommy D's to catch the great Karaoke scene. The decision is an easy one to make - you're going downtown. The only thing left to decide is: who is going to be the designated driver? Now let's reformulate that question. What if, instead of deciding who is going to be downing ice water all night, there was another option such as a free ride downtown, and back?

The idea had been floating around last year about a possible shuttle service to take kids downtown during busy nights of the week to the bars and restaurants to have a good time, and scoop them up later on, ensuring the safety of their transportation.

When asked about the possible idea, field hockey star Megan Wolski stated: "Oh, definitely - that would mean we all go out & have a good time, while still being responsible."

Jean and Harry Rainey of Highland Avenue, residents for more than 60 years in Westfield, said: "We think this is a wonderful idea. In the past year we've had kids pull up to the house and walk right through the front door, thinking this was their house!"

There are many factors and issues that arise with this idea, however, some being the following:
Who will provide this service? Who will pay? Who will drive? Who is allowed to take advantage of this transportation? Is this legal?

Along with the transportation issues, safety and conduct issues arrive as well. Questions are asked such as: Will this service promote alcoholism? Will students be more prone to missing Wednesday and Friday classes? Would this give the college a bad image?

Nicole Dreger stated that: "If they're gonna drink, they're gonna drink. This saves lives."

Although that could be true, many of these questions cannot be answered without seeing what really happens in the future, but this reporter did a little digging to find some information for you owls.

I had a nice talk with Sue Lamontagne, VP of student affairs. She was very helpful and informative on this subject by filling me in on the progress of this issue. It had been discussed at last years meetings towards the tail end of the year, and will be picked up again at next month's meeting. Sue added that this idea has many pros and cons, yet is a reachable goal, providing the right guidelines be followed and factors be taken care of. Sue also said that this isn't something that will happen next week - it takes time and preparation.

After my chat with Sue, the next stop was the Westfield Police department. I had the opportunity to speak with Sergeant Dickinson, who was impressed with the idea, and supports it as well. He did not see anything wrong with this concept, and added that "this would not only help with the DUI problem in Westfield, but also the intoxicated wanderers that may find their ways into private properties of downtown residents."

I also made my way down to Tommy D's, to talk to Tommy himself about the idea. Tommy said that he has been pursuing this idea since last school year. His plan is to purchase a large van or small bus to be able to transport men and women from WSC safely back to their homes. He's still looking into all options to take at the current time and will coincide with whatever the college needs to make this a practical, legal, and happening thing!

What about us off campus kids? If we are driven back to campus, we will have to drive home, making it illegal still.

Tommy D said that he would be willing, within reason, to make a loop around the populated college spots in town such as Mechanic St, Shepard St, Southwood Acres, and the Big Y areas.

He said this service would be free of cost; his main concern is the safety of his customers.



Photo by Mike Coughlin

Part of that safety, Tommy explained, would be ID'ing everyone who enters the bus each time they come on. This would be primarily for WSC students, but open if they have a friend from out of town, or from another college nearby.

A few students even told me they'd pay for this service.

Kimmie Roach and Joe Welch, both from Southwood Acres, said they'll gladly shell out five dollars apiece if they could get picked up at their apartment.

Shane Melone said he'd pay upwards of ten dollars for a ride. He also added that "DUI's suck, so I'm all for it. It's a lot cheaper!"

It seems that the biggest theme brought out while interviewing students is that this service would be safer, more responsible, and convenient.

"This would be nice, so I don't get woken up for rides at 2 AM anymore," - said sophomore Alyssa Wesloy.

Whether or not this idea will pass through the next meetings or not remains to be seen. This kind of thing will take time and effort to get rolling. The students however, seem to be all for it - 21 or not. Now that you are informed, it's a matter of what we can do to either promote or shut down this idea - whatever the student body determines is best for us, and the college as a whole.

Just remember, be safe out there!

10 things never to say to a girl

1. "She's just a friend." - Yeah, right. If she's attractive and single, we see her as a threat.

2. "I'll call you tonight at 8 p.m." - Do NOT give a specific time or date of when you will be calling unless you intend to keep your word. Not calling on time will set off all sorts of alarms that will lead us to not trust you.

3. "She's hot." - We like to think, at least in your eyes, that we're the hottest girl on the planet.

4. "I don't use condoms." - That's nice. See ya later! We don't want an STD. Condoms are a fact of life these days, wear one.

5. "I love you." - If you don't mean it, you'll be opening up Pandora's Box.

6. "Did you gain weight?" - Does this one really even need an explanation?

7. "My ex always/never/used to..." - Relationships are difficult enough without the ghost of your ex floating around. Either get back with her or shut up.

8. "You remind me of my mother." - This is NOT a compliment, no matter how nice it sounds in your head.

9. "Did we have plans?" - Don't be dumb enough to forget or there will be hell to pay.

10. "Keep in touch/call me." - What the hell is that supposed to mean?! There's too much room for interpretation here, so just don't use either of these ambiguous expressions.

Check out our new "Pictures from around campus!" - Pages 9 & 10

Have poems or short stories you'd like published? Submit them to thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

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Burdens of the working student

Rebecca Everett
Voice Reporter

With the rising cost of higher education, more and more college students are finding it necessary to work part time, or even full time jobs to pay the bills. The increase in the number of student workers and the hours they work has many concerned that it may be negatively affecting students' academic and social lives on campus.

John Paulmann, a communication professor at Westfield State, said that he believes that many students are limited in their involvement on campus due to their part time or full time jobs. Although Paulmann said that working does provide valuable experience for students, he worries that "they might be missing out on the community we're trying to provide here."

Mohammed Ibrahim, a senior at WSC, said that his campus social life does not suffer despite working up to 35 hours per week. Ibrahim tutors students in Critical Thinking on campus, and also works for the Association for Community Living, which helps people with developmental disabilities live in their own homes. "I'm still involved on campus a lot, though," Ibrahim said. As a member of the Commuter Council, he helps to organize events like the upcoming poetry slam. Academically, Ibrahim said he is still able to keep up with the work load of six classes this semester despite his two jobs. "I'm not stressed out yet, but I classes just started," Ibrahim said.

Josh Calkins, a junior at WSC, also said that having a part time job did not directly interfere with his studies. "It's not really a problem for studying," said Calkins, who works about 20 hours a week at the Sheraton Hotel at Bradley International Airport. Calkins said that it was a problem, however, when he was unable to take Communication Theory, a requirement for his major, because it was moved to later in the afternoon and interfered with his work schedule. "It was kind of a pain because about a week and a half before classes started I had to rework my whole class schedule," Calkins said.

Like Ibrahim, Calkins said that working did not hinder his social life. "I guess it might if I lived on campus," Calkins said, "but most of my friends live off-campus."

Mike Kokoszka, a junior at WSC, also said that working did not disturb his social life because he is a commuter. Kokoszka works 12-18 hours a week as a bartender at the Black and White Restaurant in Spencer. He admitted that it does have a negative effect on his academic life, however. "If I didn't have a job, school would be a lot easier," Kokoszka said. His dilemma is one familiar to many students: "I have a lot less time for schoolwork, but I need a supplemental income for loans and books."

Inadequate funding threatens the future of Westfield State College

Katrina Powell
Voice Reporter

Is there a future for Westfield State College?

Recently, inadequate funding and lack of classrooms due to renovations has caused quite a ruckus for many Mass Communications students.

The department of communications here at WSC is not alone in their search for more part-time teachers in order to fill course requirements; this has been a problem for many state colleges.

It has become clear that insufficient numbers of professors have led to serious adjustments in the schedules of students, mainly communications majors. When full time professors were lost from the communication department this past semester, the department did everything within its power to replace the instructors with part-time help.

However, most of the replacements were already teaching a full course load at other colleges, causing class times to be reworked around the professor's schedule. The department took steps in order to advertise for new faculty, but to their dismay, there were few responses. Because of this difficulty, some sections of courses were closed or only offered to seniors, meeting times were changed and students were kicked out of their courses.

"We were in a jam...it was sort of like a bad choice or a worse choice...the biggest hurt of all is to close students out of a section," says Professor John Paulmann of the Communication Department. "Unfortunately, when there are a fixed number of classrooms, understaffed faculty and enrollment continues to increaseand there is little that can be done to accommodate students."

The problem is not specific to this college. "[It's] not a WSC thing, it's a college thing...adequate funding of higher education would solve all problems," comments Elizabeth Preston, Head of the communication department.

Regarding this chaos, Paulmann says, "We were put in a tough place...we're very sorry and we certainly did not intend for this to happen."

Editor's Desk



Fall semester is officially in full-swing. How do I know this? Well, because I am burdened with more homework than I know what to do with, and I've started eating primarily out of the vending machine. Healthy.

I can't completely complain though. The weather has been absolutely beautiful, the Big E is back and I feel like there is always something going on around campus.

Whether it be a student playing his or her guitar under a tree, a playful game of frisbee taking up a corner of the green or a school sponsored event taking place, there is always something to do. And that's what I love about college.

No matter how stressed out you get or how badly you might want to cry because you spilled iced coffee all over yourself on the way to class, and you failed a quiz and your stupid ex decided to randomly send you a hyper-ciphered text message that said "Hi, how are you?", you can always count on a roommate, a neighbor, a faculty member, maybe even that random kid playing the guitar on the green, to help cheer up your day a bit.

I don't think there is an atmosphere quite like this anywhere else.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



The new Soulja Boy dance



Drunk freshmen girls

Red Cross Blood Drive

American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

The SGA will once again sponsor four Blood Drives during the academic year. Please mark your calendars for the first one being held on Thursday, October 4 from 1:00-7:00 pm in the Parenzo Gym.

From the Red Cross, "appointments are highly encouraged and can be made in the Dining Commons, online at **www.givelife.org**, or by calling **1-800 GIVE LIFE.**"

As always, walk-ins are welcome too.

Students pay too much for textbooks

Here's the bad news. Westfield State College students pay way too much for textbooks. According to a random sampling of 52 students, they spend an average of 385 dollars on books per semester, despite the vast majority being able to spend only 200 dollars or less. Most students reported buying books that included CD's or workbooks, extras that drive up the cost of textbooks, but extras that most students never actually used. To add insult to injury, students have not received fair deals when selling their books back. Of the 52 students polled, 18 were able to sell their books back, but most other students wrote that they didn't bother to sell their books back because of how little the books were worth at the end of the semester. Twelve students polled also cited that they couldn't sell their books back at all because a new edition had made their books worthless.

Here's the good news. We actually have the power to change this. Right now, there is a bill sitting in the state legislature that would require textbook companies to limit the amount of new editions they create, offer "unbundled" books, and require better price disclosure when meeting with professors. In short, it would protect students from being completely ripped off.

The even better news is that Westfield State College students have a lot of influence to make this bill pass. Our district representative, Representative Humason, is a graduate of Westfield State College, loves Westfield students, and is a member of the state's Higher Education Committee, the committee which decides whether or not this bill gets voted on.

All that Westfield students have to do to show their power is come to the Textbooks Bill Hearing at the State House in Boston from 10:30 AM until 1 PM on Tuesday, October 2nd, wearing their college t-shirts. Students from all across the state will be there, but Westfield's voice needs to be heard.

Anyone interested in going should contact MASSPIRG at masspirg@wsc.ma.edu or call 572-5428, and ask for Sandi.

Sandi Goilob
MASSPIRG Organizer

Poetry Slam provides outlet for students

Molly Pappas
Editor-in-Chief

The English Department, in conjunction with the Urban Education Program, is holding a Poetry Slam on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Ely main lounge.

A poetry slam is a competitive art form of poetry through performance. Each poet is required to prepare three poems – one for each of the three rounds. Judges determine which poet wins each round, thus deciding who moves on to the next round.

Mohammed Ibrahim, a senior at WSC who is assisting in the organization of the event, said the aim of the program is to bring together a group of diverse individuals who can share their poetry. Each individual brings her or his own style of expression.

A partial motivation for the event is the Virginia Tech University massacre last April.

"In the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre, many have criticized and complained in order to prevent this atrocity from reoccurring. I feel that it is our responsibility as students to be able to assist our peers in expressing their thoughts and feelings. I believe if Cho Heung-Sui had the opportunity to express himself, the possibility of the massacre occurring would have been less," said Ibrahim.

The Poetry Slam also hopes to provide an outlet for students who may be feeling overwhelmed by daily challenges.

"A poetry slam is an open and safe atmosphere that will urge students to verbally express themselves through poetry and spoken word. Along with providing a cozy environment for expression, the poetry slam will also be a healthy alternative when addressing an issue," concluded Ibrahim.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three poets, who will also move on to compete in a championship round against teams of student-poets from local colleges at American International College on Oct. 23, 2007.

Ibrahim encourages those who are unable to participate in this semester's poetry slam to be on the look-out for signups for second semester, and to come support your fellow students on Poetry Slam night!

Contact Mohammed Ibrahim, mibrahim31@gmail.com, with any questions. For more information on Poetry Slams, visit www.PoetrySlam.com.

Dear Students, Family, and Friends of Liz Connolly,

I didn't know Liz Connolly in the short two years of her time here. But after the moving memorial service held for her on Sunday the 23rd, here on our campus, I feel as though I do know her, through you. Such a great number of students stood up to remember her, in moments altogether wild, sad, funny, and inspiring, the parade before the mic went on and on, followed by an extraordinary slide show of exuberant moments and memories, and a beautiful song sung by students in her honor.

It's clear that Liz was a highly gifted, deeply caring, and hugely fun person to be around. It's also clear that we have a large reservoir of wonderfully caring, loving, and responsive students here at WSC. After a moment like this, a side of our young people not always open for others to see, there can be no doubt that students are really the energy, the life, and the spark of our community. When emotions are laid bare like on Sunday, one can only say, what a magnificent life it is that you find ways of sharing with all of us. What a privilege it is to work here, thanks to you.

-- A WSC employee

How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

Make Quick and Easy Resumes, Cover Letters, and More with the Free OptimalResume Software

Need a resume? Want a cover letter? Feel like you should brush up on those interview skills? As a student at WSC, we are excited to provide you with the OptimalResume online software suite.

OptimalResume can help you take care of all of these things and more. This easy-to-use online software allows you to quickly and effortlessly create essential professional documents such as resumes and cover letters, as well as investigate crucial job-related skills such as the practice interview or skills assessment. You can even send your results directly to the Career Center online for review and comments!
Best of all, it's free for students!

You have probably struggled with various resume templates in the past and found them to be more frustrating than helpful. Imagine how nice it would be to develop your document with easy to use online tools, examples and suggestions.

OptimalResume: Now, each student can store up to 5 individual resumes and return anytime in the future update them, even years after they graduate. The resume output can take many forms, and each student has control over how the resume looks and works, all with a simple clickable interface. Assistance includes examples and formats, spell checking, action words and a stylist function to aid in making the resume unique and attractive.

Your finalized resume can be published to the Internet using an optionally password-protected, user-specific web address. The software includes extensive control over how your resume will be formatted and viewed, both on paper and online. Sending your results directly to the Career Center for online review and comments saves time and waiting for an appointment.
NEW IN 2007

Several new features has been added this year, including the Cover Letter and Portfolio tools. It has never been easier to prepare well written documents for internship and job applications.

OptimalEfolio: In addition to OptimalResume, the Career Center will be offering OptimalEfolio, an online portfolio builder, free to current students. If you have documents or projects that you would like to show to employers, an OptimalEfolio is an excellent complement to your resume. Users can choose from a File Cabinet, where employers can download documents to their own computers for review, or a Slide Show to showcase projects in an interactive online slide show.
This program is easy and convenient to use, and finished portfolios can be made accessible from your OptimalResume website. It is also compatible with many popular file types, including .DOC, .XLS, .PDF, .ZIP, .JPG, .TXT, and .WAV. Through the OptimalEfolio Builder, you can also add special comments and viewing requirements to your portfolio for added customization.
To see the OptimalEfolio Builder in action, visit http://wsc.optimalresume.com to open a free account and create your online portfolio.

OptimalLetter Builder: Beginning this semester, students will have access to a groundbreaking new addition to the Optimal Resume family, the OptimalLetter Builder. With this tool, you can create your own cover letters from scratch, and download them into three convenient formats: Microsoft Word Compatible, Plain Text, and Email. In addition, any letters you create can be made viewable on your OptimalResume website, providing employers with a dynamic new interface with which to view your documents.

Optimal Resume's products are known for their user-friendliness, and OptimalLetter is no exception. If you are new to writing cover letters, the Letter Builder provides useful hints and instructions to help you every step of the way. You can choose from a variety of letter types, suitable to your career needs, and each letter you make is fully customizable.

Coming Soon – OptimalInterview – we can't wait to show you this new tool. Stay tuned!

OptimalResume can be accessed via a link in the Career Center website, or directly at wsc.OptimalResume.com. Try it today – you will be glad you did!

Maureen McCartney
Director
WSC Career Center

Jena 6 case gains national attention

Erica Forish
Voice Reporter

On Dec. 4, 2006, six black teenagers were arrested for the brutal attack of a white teenager. In the quiet town of Jena, Louisiana, Jesse Ray Beard, 14, Robert Bailey, 17, Mychal Bell, 16, Carwin Jones, 18, Bryant Purvis, 17, and Theo Shaw, 17, participated in the beating of Justin Barker, 17. The six black teenagers were subsequently charged with attempted murder in the second-degree and conspiracy to commit murder in the second-degree. Dubbed as the Jena 6, these students were involved with one of many racially-charged incidents that had been occurring in Jena. Although prior incidents never resulted in legal action as long as the assailant was white, the police did not hesitate to intervene once they realized that black people were committing violent crimes. In response to the Jena 6 case, people across the nation have become enraged by the prevalence of racial discrimination in our legal system.

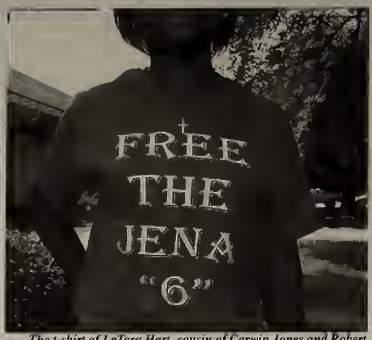
Initially, five out of the six accused black students were to be tried in the adult judicial system. The juvenile court system handled the case of Beard, the youngest defendant. Eventually, the charges were diminished to second-degree aggravated battery and conspiracy to commit second-degree battery. Currently, Bell is the only student remaining in prison; his bail is set at $90,000. The judge refused to lower the bond on the grounds that Bell had a history of criminal activity. Bell's record included four juvenile offenses; two of these offenses involved battery charges. The bonds of the remaining Jena 6 were also set at high amounts, ranging from $70,000 to $138,000. Bailey, Jones and Shaw were released from prison once their families collected enough money to post bail. The status of Beard's case is unknown because the juvenile court system does not allow the public into its courtrooms.

The act of racial violence committed by the Jena 6 was not an isolated incident. The student body enrolled at Jena High School was composed of 85 percent, or more, white students and only 10 percent black. Students of both races seemed to embrace a policy of self-imposed segregation. During lunchtime, for example, white students usually congregated under the shade of a tree, while black students sit on a set of bleachers near the school building. The tree was referred to as the "white tree" and unspoken social contracts kept the black students from congregating under it.

On Aug. 31, 2006 several black freshmen chose to sit under the white tree. On the following morning, two nooses hung from the tree's branches. Upon investigation, the school's principal discovered that three white students were to blame for the noose incident. Although the principal suggested expulsion for all three students, the Board of Education denied the request. In protest of the denied request, a group of black students sat under the white tree on September 6, and, thereby catalyzed a series of racial violence in Jena.

The media exaggerated the noose incident and identified it as the main cause for the violence that ensued. On Nov. 30 the main academic building at Jena High School burnt to the ground. Despite popular opinion, no evidence of racial motives was found in regards to this incident. During the same weekend, a black student was beaten up by a white student at a local party. Authorities did not respond to this event. The following day, a white person threatened a group of black people at gunpoint inside a convenience store. A struggle ensued and the group of black people managed to safely get the gun away from the assailant. Authorities did not charge the white person with any crimes; the black individuals involved, however, were charged with gun theft.

As racial tensions mounted, the violent events climaxed on Dec. 4 when white student, Justin Barker was assaulted by six black students, now notoriously referred to as the Jena 6. Due to the racial overtones of the case, the Jena 6 have received national media attention. Terry Adams, a Jena resident, said, "We are not a racial town. We get along with each other, we get along fine. This is something that got out of proportion." Al Sharpton responds to those that deny the racist implications of the Jena 6 case as follows: "We didn't bring race into it. Those that hung the nooses brought the race into it." An anonymous resident shares Sharpton's sentiments and admits that her family will be moving out of the town "because of the racist stuff that's going on here."



The t-shirt of LaTara Hart, cousin of Carwin Jones and Robert Bailey, two of the Jena Six
Photo courtesy of www.allaboutrace.com

Many others have vocalized their opinions regarding the incident that occurred on Dec. 4. Tony Brown, a radio host, said, "Jena has been a community that has had self-imposed segregation probably since the '50s." Additionally, Leonard Steinhorn, a professor at American University, noted the following: "There's a sense that parts of the judicial system still remain anchored in bigoted attitudes of old and that a black person can't get fair or true justice." Such statements emphasize the bleak fact that racial tensions in America are far from gone.

The Jena 6 case has brought racial discrimination into the foreground of American society. Oppressed minority groups are becoming infuriated by capitalism's perpetuation of racist ideals. People have been shocked into awareness in regards to the prevalence and continuance of racism in twenty-first century American society. In relation to the justice system, the Jena 6 represent the extreme legal ramifications that black youths endure in modern society. According to a recent study, 58 percent of all juveniles sentenced within the adult justice system are black, a fact that Martin Luther King III addresses: "The justice system isn't applied the same to all crimes and all people." The lack of equality within the American legal system seems to maintain the inherent injustices that minority groups must face. Senator Barack Obama specifically addresses the issues of equality and integrity, "Outrage over an injustice isn't a matter of black and white. It's a matter of right and wrong," he said.

On June 26, 2007 Mychal Bell was found guilty on both accounts of battery by an all-white jury. During the court proceedings, Bell's court-appointed attorney did not bother to call witnesses to the stand. Three months later, on Sept. 14, Bell's conviction was overturned by Louisiana's Third Circuit Court of Appeals on the grounds that Bell was wrongly tried as an adult.

Several days later, on Sept. 18, a panel of three judges announced that they would not approve the motion to release Bell from prison, claiming that such an action would be "premature." Nonetheless, Bell's attorney pled for the defendant's release from prison, or, at the very least, for him to be transferred into the juvenile justice system.

After conducting a thorough investigation of the assault as well as the noose incident, Donald Washington, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, announced his findings to the public. It was determined that there was no connection between the noose incident and the alleged black-on-white violence. In fact, in over 40 official statements made by the defendants and by the witnesses, no one even once mentioned the noose incident.

Reed Walters, the LaSalle Parish District Attorney, reached a similar conclusion after supervising the investigations of numerous law enforcement agencies, including the FBI. Walters states that there is no "direct linkage" between the two events. Additionally he has also renounced the idea that racial prejudices influenced any aspect of the Jena 6 case. "This case has been portrayed by the news media as being about race," he said. "but this case is not and has never been about race. It is about finding justice for an innocent victim and about holding people accountable for their actions." Conversely, the FBI's investigation of the incident led agents to believe that the noose incident "had all the markings of a hate crime."

On Sept. 20, an estimated crowd of 30,000 people from across the country arrived in Jena, Louisiana to protest the Jena 6 case. The protests focused on the injustices and the inequalities of the American legal system. Later that afternoon, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals announced its decision to hold a hearing within the next 72 hours that would address the possibility of Bell's release from prison. The hearing was scheduled for the morning of Sept. 21. On that day, the Third District Court dismissed Bell's conviction of second-degree battery and concluded that the juvenile court system should conduct future proceedings. The judge then decided, conversely, not to lower Bell's bail.

Bell is the only teen involved in the Jena 6 case that remains imprisoned.

Miss South Carolina. Enough said.



Caitlin Penndorf

Opinion & Editoral Editor

There was an event this summer that "such as" made it very clear to many people "such as" around America that we may need to "such as" make geography a more prominent subject in our school systems, "such as". As I'm sure you've already guessed, I'm talking about the infamous Miss South Carolina response to the question regarding why many Americans cannot locate the United States of America on a map.

If you haven't seen the clip, you need to check it out. If not for the shock value, then for the pure humor and good laughs I guarantee will ensue after viewing it.

The Miss Teen USA Pageant Contestant, Lauren Caitlin Upton, responded to the question in a choppy and confused manner, with her main point being that many people in the United States do not have maps. She then goes on to say that our education system should help people in South Africa, "Iraq and the Asian countries" so that "we will be able to build up our future for our children." (Insert blank stare here, please). She also added the phrase "such as" between almost every four words she said. While everyone laughed and joked about the beauty's blunder, I couldn't help but begin to think about the statistic given.

I did notice that while this issue was getting a lot of airtime, the focus wasn't on the fact that Americans can't find their own homeland on a map, it was about how goofy this poor girl sounded trying to answer the question. While this did seem to bring to life a real problem regarding educational institutions not putting enough emphasis on geography, people couldn't help but focus on her babbling and Mario Lopez's obvious attempt to hold in his laughter.

Miss South Carolina did bring up a somewhat valid point during her rambles, however. She talked about how many people don't have maps, which really does make sense. Many schools may not be able to afford updated maps or any maps at all. I think if we worked on solving the map problem, the statistic would go down.

While Miss South Carolina is probably a very smart girl and her moment was most likely just a serious mind blank, her legacy as the "such as" girl will live on in Miss Teen USA/YouTube history for quite some time and continue to make me laugh really, really hard. Such as.

Letter to the Editor

September 25, 2007

Right now, college students at Westfield State College, in my House district, and across Massachusetts are being held hostage by powerful publishing companies by the exorbitant costs of their course textbooks. According to the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, the average college student spends about $900 on textbooks each year. Not only are textbook prices high, they're rising. Textbook prices have skyrocketed at four times the rate of inflation over the last decade.

Why? One reason is the lack of competition in the textbook market. Consolidation in the last decade has reduced the number of major publishers from several dozen to just five. Furthermore, students, as a group, have very little purchasing power because textbook decisions aren't made by them but by the faculty who decide which textbooks a student must buy for their class.

When selecting course materials, college professors can't make the right choices for their students if they don't have the options and the information they need. Seventy five percent of professors report that publishers' representatives do not disclose price information to them during sales meetings.

Furthermore, low cost or no frills options of texts, if any, are often unavailable or hard to find.

Textbook publishers have a captive audience on college campuses statewide. They engage in shenanigans aimed at maximizing their profits despite the needs of their consumers.

New editions of textbooks are issued frequently by publishers to drive up the cost and make it difficult for students to find cheaper used copies. Another publishing tactic which drives up prices is the 'bundling' of books with additional materials such as CD-ROMS, work books, and study guides.

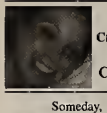
There is currently legislation filed in Massachusetts which would require publishers to disclose price information to faculty and require that any bundled book also be available 'a la carte'.

A public hearing on House Bill 1200 will be held at the State House by the Higher Education Committee on Tuesday, October 2, at 11 AM, in Hearing Room A2. College students, faculty, and the public are welcome to testify.

Representative Donald F. Humason, Jr., R-Westfield

Member of the Joint Committee on Higher Education

The Massachusetts Turnpike v. Sara Charbonneau



Sara Charbonneau

Voice Columnist

Someday, I'm going to write a book. Tentatively titled "My Life as a Westfield State College Commuter: A Student's Guide to Driving on the Mass Pike and Living to Tell the Tale", it will be amazing. It will make you laugh, cry, and you'll probably have a tough time holding down whatever you just ate at the dining commons. Hopefully, it'll be a raging success, and this semester will be worth something more than, well, the price of gas.

In real life, I just moved to Worcester and decided that taking four classes online, a night class at Westfield, a night class at Worcester State, and work full time at a small law firm would be a good idea. I can hear you laughing from here. I am possibly the busiest person you have ever met – or read? I'm going to take the time out of my day, when I should be cleaning and doing the homework that's looming over me perilously, to give you a snippet of the adventure that is my life.

Anyway, last Wednesday started as any other Wednesday. I wake up at 6:30 to get ready for work, groggily do the breakfast thing, and I drive to work. My boyfriend had taken my car the night before, so I was driving his little Chevy. I get to work, do my thing, and at 12, on my lunch hour, went back home to exchange keys so I could drive my new Saturn to school since it gets much better gas mileage.

So I get home, and the boyfriend is nowhere to be found. I give his cell a jingle, and he doesn't answer. I sigh. I'd have to take the Chevy to school – not a bad deal since his car has a better sound system than mine and it's a nice ride, but it has about a fourth of a tank of gas. So I left the house five minutes early to run to the gas station. There's one literally a block from my apartment building, so I figured it'd be easy to just go there. So I head out.

In order to get to the gas station, I have to take a street about 2 streets up, located in the middle of the WPI neighborhood. Now on this street, people park on both sides, thus making a two lane street a one lane. I pull down that street to see a huge towing truck parked SIDEWAYS across the street. There was going to be no way I could get to the gas station from that direction. By this time, it was nearly 1:00, so I headed back to work.

At work, I decided that I would just leave five minutes early to get gas. Ten to five, I began to pack up my stuff and get ready to leave. As soon as I turned off the screen to my computer, my boss ran towards me down the hall. "Sara, fax this to blah blah blah, then FedEx it to him and blah blah blah." Seriously. So I faxed it to the man (name withheld since it IS a law firm, and I can get fired for stuff like that), made up two FedEx packages to send to that man and our client, made two copies and then called FedEx to have them come pick the packages up. I was now five minutes late.

Okay. I will just get gas in Charlton, off the Pike. It would be more expensive, but it's fine. I jump in the car, roll out of my parking garage, and head towards Interstate 290.

If you've never taken 290, you're blessed. It's been under construction for upwards of 4 years – from exits 12 to 17, the ones I'm on ALL THE TIME – and it can take 6 years to get through all the traffic. Screaming at the top of my lungs for people to just MOVE, road rage took over and I sped towards exit 7, the Massachusetts Turnpike.

FINALLY, I had gotten to the Pike exit. I turned up the Daughtry CD, I was rockin' in the car, and I settled back for a nice 45 minute drive to Westfield.

I glanced down at the clock – I had gotten through the 290 traffic relatively unscathed, so it was only 5:15 – perfect timing. So long as they had moved the traffic along around exits 8 and 9, I would be perfect. As I drove towards Charlton, where I was going to get gas, they suddenly put up signs. "No gas, Exit 10". Excuse me?!! No gas??? I have no gas to get to school!! The next gas station on the Pike was nearly 35 miles away – would I make it?? I called the boy, who finally answered and gave the news that if the gas light on the car goes on, I only have ten more miles to go before I run out. I grimaced, and prayed for the best!

Exit 8. Traffic. My arch nemesis. Construction. No gas. Me freaking out. You can only imagine the frustration. Finally the traffic subsided and I was barreling down the Pike doing about 85, trying to make it to school on time. Carefully watching for State Troopers – the last thing I needed was to get a ticket!! – I drove to Ludlow, where they have a gas station on the Pike.

I jumped out of the car, swiped my credit card, and started to fill my tank. The person in front of me walked from the gas station to his car, plopped his red bull on top of his old school Saab station wagon, and it promptly fell off. He dropped more f-bombs in one sentence than I have ever heard in my entire life. He looked over at me. "Pretty cool car, huh?" I laughed. "Yeah, pretty cool kid you are, sunshine."

I jumped back in my car and sped away, trying to get to school in time. I had 20 minutes left and about 25 more miles to go. I might be late, but I would still get there in time to not be the kid who walks into class 35 minutes late. I drove quickly to Westfield, getting there at five after six, and jumped out of the car to run to class. I grabbed my bookbag and the folder for my class fell out. "Labor Relations, 6:30 – 9:15, Room 426." Hold up. 6:30. Class starts at 6:30. I'm 25 minutes early.

Side note: Massachusetts has the craziest bug population I have ever seen. I should know – they were all over my windshield. Half an inch thick. Gooey. Disgusting.

I love commuting. Remind me to never do this again.

Doughnuts v. Muffins



Nicole Sylvester

Voice Columnist

I once read a book by Jennifer Crusie in which she presented a comparison that never fails to start me thinking.

"There are two kinds of men in this world, doughnuts and muffins. Doughnuts are the guys that make you drool. They're crispy and covered with chocolate icing and you see one and you have to have it, and if you don't get it, you think about it all day and then you go back for it anyway because it's a doughnut. Whereas muffins just sort of sit there all lumpy looking alike, no chocolate icing at all. And while muffins may be excellent, especially the pineapple-orange ones, they're no doughnuts."

You get the gist. She's comparing men to breakfast foods. But here's the catch. These amazing doughnuts she's talking about are only good for one night! While muffins last at least a week! Well, actually, a time stamp is never actually put on them but the general idea is that these flashy doughnuts expire quickly, but muffins last forever.

Despite the simplicity with which this comparison is laid out, it's far from simple. What if you don't like doughnuts? You're definitely not going to obsess over it all day or go back for it. What if you don't like muffins? You're not going to complain at the end of the day that your donut's shelf life is shorter than muffins because that's irrelevant. Muffins have no place in your life.

Why are doughnuts only good for a limited amount of time? Let me clarify, I'm not talking about the literal doughnuts I mean the figurative donuts: "ManDoughnuts" if you will. I think that every woman's first thought is that these men are not good candidates for a long-term relationship. But what if that's not the case? What if the fact of the issue is that we women are not properly appreciating and caring for our ManDoughnuts? What if a woman is just going to the store and picking up doughnuts because that's what the rest of her friends are going for? What if, deep down all she wants is a muffin? Of course the ManDoughnut will be underappreciated- because that's not what she really needs.

So say our girl finally realizes that a muffin is what she really wants? She goes to the store, picks it up and brings it home. Life is great for a while. But what happens when the muffin finally goes stale? Women's tastes are constantly changing. This is coming from a girl who knows firsthand. I've had plenty of doughnuts when all I wanted is a muffin. I've had muffins at all the wrong times. And what about Danish? Why isn't that part of our breakfast comparison. That's my favorite. How long does Danish last? Does cheese have a better shelf-life than strawberry? But I digress.

While women everywhere are so obsessed with simplifying relationships the honest truth is- it's just not that simple. Whether its budding romance, a long-term relationship or a lifetime friendship- relationships come in all different shapes and sizes. Lets face it girls, doughnuts and muffins are not the only breakfast foods available. There's a whole host of carbohydrates to choose from. One day you might wake up and realize that what you really want is a chocolate frosted muffin. Don't limit yourself!

There's diversity at Westfield State College

Yeah, they're called black squirrels



Eryn Carter

Managing Editor

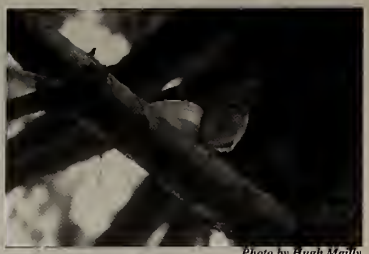


Photo by Hugh Manly

I'm going to guess that you would have never though that Westfield has one of the greatest abundance of black squirrels before you stepped foot here. And I'm also going to guess that you had never even HEARD of the black squirrel until you took a tour here or moved in on freshman move-in day. Al! I know is that these little buggers are no ordinary squirrel.

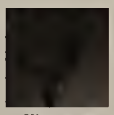
At first glance, you think 'Look how adorable they are!' until it stops with an acorn in its mouth and glares at you like it's thinking 'Come near me and I will jump on you'. And doesn't it seem that as soon as you go to walk by it, it appears to watch you or as in many cases, proceeds to chase you. I know just the other day, I was walking to a class when I saw a black squirrel carrying a small branch of acorns in its mouth. After dealing with these creatures for four years now, I've learned to just ignore them. The number one rule, don't make eye contact with you. Except that day was different. I just took a quick glance and hoped that it would just let me wander by. Instead, IT BEGAN TO CHASE ME DOWN THE STEPS! Now as most people know the steps by Dickinson and the Old Apartments are pretty small and narrow, so picture someone running down those with a squirrel chasing them. It's quite a sight. Another of my own experiences was once again when I was walking to class and I actually watched a squirrel sneak up behind a huge crow and POUNCE on it, just because it felt like it. They're sneaky little guys.

I've heard of them lunging at people from inside of trash cans and throwing acorns at people. And you may be laughing and thinking 'Yeah, right.' But after you get hit by a falling acorn, look up into the tree and see a squirrel staring down at you, you'll believe me. Pat Dayton, a junior, said "Freshman year, I was standing under a tree talking on my cell phone when I felt something hit my head. I reached up and discovered it was poop. I looked up in the tree above me and there it was; a black squirrel."

Now rumor has it that these squirrels are pretty rare in this country. But Jamie Curran experienced them in Washington, D.C. as well. "I don't have any good squirrel stories from up here, but when I was in D.C. I saw them everywhere too!" It's been said that seeing a black squirrel is good luck. If that's true, then I'm pretty sure everyone at Westfield should be attaining a 4.0 GPA and getting the jobs of their dreams. Jenna Braverman, a junior at Westfield, said about the pesky little critters, "My freshman year I was walking to my friends room in Scanlon and on the way I got hit by a frisbee. Right before it happened a black squirrel was hopping along beside me so I realized that he must have been bad luck after I got hit." Here's a perfect example that they are kind of like black cats. BAD LUCK.

But the big question that I hear the most often is 'Where do they come from?" Well, here's what the most common story is. Professor Tarin Weiss of Westfield State College agrees with the story that they were first brought here in 1948 as a gift to Frank Stanley Beveridge, who is better known as the founder of the glorious Stanley Park. Six squirrels were released in the park and they thrived.

Clearly they did since now it's pretty much impossible to get away from them. But hey, I guess it's just part of the diversity here at Westfield State.



Hi everyone:

Wanted to remind everyone of the weekly Yoga for Anxiety and Stress Management class on Thursdays, 4-5 pm at the Davis Hall Commons (behind the commuter lot). This is offered to everyone in the WSC community. Lots of basic asanas (postures) will be taught with instructions on breathing, mindfulness and other disciplines that can assist in a calmer, less agitated approach to daily living.

We have limited supply of yoga mats and blankets, etc.—first come, first served. Please bring your own mat if you have one.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions (X5790).

Suzanna Adams
Counseling Center

To the freshmen



Kayla Cournoyer

Voice Columnist

This week my only advice to you is to make friends on campus. I know this sounds corny and like it wouldn't be very good advice, but it helps when a class gets cancelled and you have no one to sit with during the wait for you next class.

This may seem like an easy task, and for those of you living on campus it very well may be. For those of you who do live on campus, you can get involved in the campus life by taking part in as many sports or clubs that can fit in between you classes. But for commuters it is sometimes harder to take part in out of class activities because you have to fit it in with work and home-bound things.

Residence students have the advantage in this area because they live here on campus. Living here means that you have at least one roommate. Roommates are the type of people that you want to be friends with because they are there, living with you, whether you want them there or not. They can also be the ones you stay up with all night talking to or studying.

Getting involved in the school is a good thing because it helps you to go through the full college experience. Clubs related to your major or even unrelated activities that you like are a good and fun way to take part in college life.

For the athletes out there, WSC has a variety of sports that are always looking for new participants. Sports will help you to avoid the "Freshman 15", as well as put you in a social environment.

I understand that some people just aren't made for sports. In that case there are things like The Voice, Persona or even the debate team. All of which are college activities that look good on résumés and help to build friendships.

Just think of it this way. Whether you are the type of person who likes to get out there and join clubs and such or you just like meeting people in you classes, it is always good to have some friends. Nobody wants to sit alone at the DC or in the Ely lounge waiting for their next class to come.



Designed by Michelle Ahern

The one film that will change your life forever

Mike Coughlin
Photography Editor

If you're like me, I always get caught up in the game called Life. Everywhere around us there are things to do, work, homework, friends, family and many other obligations that the American Dream provides us.

We, as a people, can easily be caught up in life's simple moments. Being "caught up" leads us to have stress and disorder in our lives. Admit it or deny it we can all look back to a particular point in our life on this earth and remember when we lost control. As human beings we do not like to loose control. Fear, sadness, heartbreak and loneliness occupy our lives when we loose control.

Socrates, played by Nick Nolte, has admirable qualities in the film Peaceful Warrior. Qualities we strive for in life but sometimes never accomplish. Socrates calls it taking out the trash.

The trash can consist of useless information holding us back from our full potential in life. Isn't that the American Dream? We are born into a society where anything is possible. We can become a teacher to give back to youthful spirits or we could walk on the moon, that's what beautiful about America.

Reading this article will not do the film justice. You need to watch it. Go rent it. Now. Tony Robbins is an American life coach, writer, and professional speaker. He is quoted saying "This film will impact the course of your life forever."

"There is no starting or stopping, only doing. The place is here, and the time is now," says Socrates.

That line was enough to change my life, isn't it about time you change yours?

A BLANK PAGE WANTS TO BE WRITTEN

By: Tatyana Pyshnyak

White-lined window
Blue-veined streaks
Three-punched holes
Metal spiral peaks

Room for poetry
Space for words
Felt-tip races
Half-page scolds

Whisper of the minutes
Murmur of the clocks
The enscriber lingers
As a blank page mocks

Protestant Chaplain's Column

Mister Boffo by Joe Martin is a cartoon strip that isn't quite right. In one strip called "Mysteries of the Small Universe", Mister Boffo, in his plaid coat has just climbed to the top of a rugged mountain. Legs crossed, he is seated next to a guru. He turns and asks the question, "On this new call waiting feature...if you put caller number one on hold to speak to caller number two, can you go back to caller number one again, or does it disconnect or what?"

WHAT?! All that, and a question about the telephone! That, of course, is the humor: a whole lot of effort followed by a ridiculous question.

On the one hand, the strip shows the image of what many think a spiritual person looks like. That image is one of contemplation and prayer. We believe that contemplation and prayer takes time, is hard work and involves a lot of silence—preferably in some secluded place. Or maybe it involves a lot of kneeling and repeated prayers. Most then stop and say, "Boring!" or "I don't have the time."

In Mark's Gospel, we read that Jesus' ministry began in the following way:

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."
16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mk. 1:14-18, NRSV

In these few verses a lot is suggested.

1. "The Kingdom of heaven has come near." In other words, it is close. This is what spirituality is all about; the awareness that God's kingdom and God's presence is near to us and with us. As a Christian, I see it in Jesus. Jesus though wants me to see it in the world and people around me. As a follower, I need to open my eyes to look for God and God's presence—not just in Jesus, but everywhere.

2. "Repent," a spiritual life of following Jesus calls us to practice self-examination. When our choices and decisions are unhealthy or based on unsound thinking or we find ourselves adrift, we admit it. We re-focus our lives on what is more important or most important.

3. "Believe in the Good News." For Jesus the good news is that God loves us. God wants to be in a relationship with us and there is a better way to live where people are in relationship with each other. The heart of Christian spirituality is the God of creation, the God of the rainbow, the God who comes in a newborn child and the God of the empty tomb.

4. "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Jesus' spirituality is an action oriented one. Jesus doesn't take his disciples to a private retreat center where they spend hours in lessons and meditation. Rather they learn on "the fly". The lessons come in the midst of real life experiences.

Yes, Jesus will pause and have lesson time. He will also retreat to the mountain in prayer by himself. Interestingly though, Jesus doesn't encourage his disciples to follow him to the mountain—especially in the early going.

The spiritual life means first an awareness of the closeness of God to us on earth.; second, the believer reflects; third, the believer has the image of a loving God who wants to be in relationship with us; finally, faith is learned on the go.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. I also maintain office hours most mornings at the church between the two campuses. You are welcome to join me in worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

Enter 'The Kingdom'

Bill George
The Movie Dude



www.thecinemasource.com

Grade: B

'The Kingdom" is the latest thriller about a terrorist attack in the Middle East and the United States' reaction to it. In this ease there is a bombing of an American compound in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the F.B.I. sends an evidence response team to investigate. That team is composed of a great ensemble cast including Academy Award winner Jaime Foxx, Academy Award winner Chris Cooper, Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman. Emmy winner Jeremy Piven also plays a small role. So it's obvious the actors all know what they're doing, now if only the script rose to meet their collective talent.

The story starts off very well with some truly innovative and fascinating opening credits. Using very stylized computer animation, the eredits include a timeline and brief history of Saudi Arabia so the audience is all on the same page. Then each of the characters are introduced with a graphic including their name and title so the audience is well aware of the role they will play. The team of investigators finally talks their way into flying to the Kingdom and their personalities are developed throughout the plane ride. All these are nice touches and a great way to get started. However, once the investigation really begins, the story falls apart. Every team member goes off to do their part in the investigation but they never actually come back together to discuss. There is never a compilation of the evidence or a diseussion or a revelation had. The whole investigation ends through happenstance, leaving the entire lead-up feeling empty.

Meanwhile, this shallow story seems to fly by far too quickly. 110 minutes is not enough time to make a truly involving film about a terrorist attack and its repereussions, and this movie proves that. There is no ideological discussion or background and no real follow-up or talk of global consequences stemming from the incident.

In addition to the gaps in the story there are a few technical errors made throughout the film. The most prominent involves audio. Whether the audio output in the theater I attended is to blame or whether it was poor sound mixing or editing within the film, I cannot say for sure. In any case, the actors mumbled during the first act of the movie. There were passages of dialogue where I could not understand what they were saying. The team had to blackmail somebody into letting them fly to Saudi Arabia and it had something to do with Jaime Foxx letting a story out that would hurt Saudi and US relations, but I honestly do not know what that entailed. Foxx was whispering with an ambassador in an SUV and I could not understand a word of it.

Another scene where this comes to mind is Chris Cooper explaining Jennifer Garner's relationship with another character. I could only understand every other word. It is truly demoralizing to an audience member to not understand what the chareters are talking about even though he or she is trying as hard as they can to listen.

Another technical blunder was the overuse of handheld cameras. Similar to The Bourne Ultimatum, this film uses handheld for everything. While a shaky handheld camera can draw an audience member closer to the action and make them feel it more intimately, is it really necessary to have two men talking in an office while they barely stay in frame? I felt dizzy and on the verge of having a headache when the film ended because of all the rapid camera shifting and spinning.

Keep in mind that these technieal errors and story drawbacks do not ultimately keep this from being an entertaining film. I found myself truly interested and involved in its outeome at all times and the gripping action sequences turned the final act into a non-stop thrill ride. The final dialogue in the film was also very well handled and has a truly lasting impact, even if the film as a whole does not.

BOTTOM LINE: Not groundbreaking, but an entertaining thriller nonetheless.

*For More By The Movie Dude, V i s i t http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

Editor's Desk



Drunk driving is no laughing matter. It's serious and can be harmful to you as well as others. But here we are, in college, where we drink, attend off campus parties and for those of us who are 21, go to bars such as Tommy D's and Fired Up. Those who are smart find a designated driver, but then there are those who just figure out who the driver will be based on who drank the least. Obviously a dumb choice.

We have only been back at school for three weeks and in those three weeks I've known two people that have already been involved with drunk driving. One was in an accident where he was a passenger. The other one was only driving a short distance.

Bottom line, it's dumb. Alcohol impairs our judgement. I know from personal experience. I've made plenty of bad decisions, one resulting in me getting in the car with someone who was drunk and he got a DUI. If you've been drinking, don't get in a car or behind the wheel unless someone who has not been drinking is driving.

I can almost guarantee that every person here knows someone who has either gotten in a drunk driving accident or has been killed in one. I know I have, and to this day it affects my decisions and my life.

So please, as we enter the second month of school be smart, be safe and make good decisions. I'm not trying to sound like your mom; do it for your own sake.

But still have fun!

Until next time,
Eryn Carter
Managing Editor of The Voice

Box Office Top 5
Weekend of 9/22

1. Resident Evil: Extinction
2. Good Luck Chuck
3. The Brave One
4. 3:10 to Yuma
5. Eastern Promises

Westfield State College
Family Day 2007
Sept. 29, 2007
For information & schedule of events, go to:
http://wsc.ma.edu/Calendar/Family_Day.html

The Voice

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.







Photos by: Karen Evans & Hugh Mailly







Submit your own pictures from around campus!!

If you want to see your own pictures in The Voice, email them to:

thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Photos by: Karen Evans & Hugh Mailly

New permanent professor for communications department

By Jenn Krok
Associate Editor

Last semester the communications department was actively seeking the newest addition to their staff. The new assistant professor they were searching for had to have several qualifications including a Ph.D. in communications and some college-level teaching experience.

After a lengthy and in depth process which involved faculty and students, the communications department hired Max Saito as the new assistant professor.

Saito, 46, currently lives in Florence with his wife and kids, but life for him before Florence and Westfield State was anything but ordinary.

Saito was born in Yamagata, Japan and spent a better portion of his life living in a village called Oisawa, with a population of about 300 people.

He came to the United States in 1989 when he was 29 years old. Saito said that he knew very little English when he first came here. "I could have conversations, but they weren't too sophisticated," he said.

He took ESL classes in Mississippi and from there continued his education in Alabama. He started at the University of Birmingham working towards his undergraduate degree but transferred to Marble College in Vermont his second year. After receiving his undergraduate degree, Saito went on to get his master's degree in International Cultural Management at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Saito's education was finally completed at UMass, Amherst, where he received his PhD. in Communications.

Saito wasn't always a teacher and where he has worked extends beyond Japan and America. He was in the Japanese peace core twice, taught at a technical college in Sri Lanka for two years and worked in the Philippines in bus maintenance as the project coordinator with nine other experts from Japan.

With a variety of jobs under his belt, Saito always wanted to be learning. "I always wanted to study," he said. "I was always curious about society and how it functions."

Saito started off as an adjunct professor at Westfield State. At the time, he was finishing up his Ph.D. at Umass, Amherst and teaching a graduate program there.

He said that he came to Westfield State to teach because there was a need for teachers here, but his first day wasn't so pleasant. "On my first day I had to bring four kids with me. I had no diapers and one of them had an accident. The class had to suffer through the smell," Saito said.

With an embarrassing first day behind him, Saito is now much more comfortable at Westfield State, with both faculty and students. "I feel comfortable in the department. The people are nice and they maintain good student/faculty relations," Saito said. "There is a good student body here and they are very attractive to me."

Saito was one of four candidates that applied for the permanent assistant professor position. He said that he was surprised by how extensive the interview process was. "I was impressed by how professional the faculty and student representatives were. It was a good opportunity for me to learn about the policies, priorities and student wishes," Saito said.

After an extensive and stressful interview process, the communications Department finally decided on hiring Saito. Saito said, "It was stressful in a sense that I had to complete forms, get letters of recommendation and there was time pressure."

He is currently teaching two sections of Intro to Mass Communications, Representations in the Media, and Foundations of Communication Research.

With a full-course load, currently working on his dissertation and a family at home, Saito definitely had his hands full, but he enjoys every minute of his life. "I am very excited and looking forward to working with students and getting to know people." Saito said, "I am happy to see smiles inside and outside of the classroom."

Credit-card companies target college students

Susan Campbell
The Hartford Courant

By this time of year, most college students are settling in. They already know where the good (and cheap) food is around campus. If they're at sleep-away school, they've decided if they love (or don't-love) their roommates.

And right about now they are feeling that particular kind of love coming from a crowd of strangers who ask only their signatures in return.

For inspiration about that last one, let us turn to Elder Marichal Monts, pastor of Citadel of Love in Hartford, Conn .

When Monts left his mother's home in Hartford's North End for Wesleyan University, he carried with him a bedrock faith, a heap of musical talent and absolutely no clue what it meant to have a credit card -- or, for that matter, what it meant to have stuff.

He was the perfect target.

Everywhere Monts turned on campus, he saw credit-card applications. What would you say to $1,000 free money in exchange for your signature on a form? (Don't be silly. You wouldn't say anything, but you might leap over the table to get to the form.)

Monts maxed out his first card, and then another, and then a third. Still, the offers kept coming. Most times, the card itself came tucked inside a lovely envelope, and thus Monts was able to leapfrog through college living the life to which we'd all like to become accustomed.

Before you condemn, understand this wasn't all about acquiring things for himself; Monts thoughtfully acquired a credit card for a woman's clothing store so that he could get things for his sister, his mother and other women in his life. "Bad credit" means nothing when you have none.

Monts figured he would pay his debts eventually, and with that magic card, Monts could buy things that would make him feel important. He could fit in to the rarefied air of Wesleyan by at least looking the part. For a while, "it was Christmas all year," Monts said.

He was his credit-card companies' prettiest baby. While he was freely spending, the debt was accumulating, and because Monts had no visible means of paying his bills, the interest rates piled up. Credit companies make their money on people like Monts, customers for whom those cards are golden portals to happiness.

And then the balance came due. Unhappy people started calling his house. Collecting the mail became a daily exercise in humility.

College students are prime pickings for a credit-card company. The assumption is that if students get into financial hot water -- and they often do -- their parents will step in and pay their bills. That, or the students eventually will graduate and get the kind of jobs that will allow them to pay their debt, all while hemorrhaging cash to meet just the minimum payment.

But colleges and universities say they lose more students to credit-card debt than they do to bad grades. The average college freshman has $2,200 in credit-card debt, according to Nellie Mae, a student-loan provider. At graduation, that debt grows to $5,800, and that's doesn't include student loans. Half of first-year college students have credit cards. Almost all seniors do, and a good portion of them -- like Monts -- use four or more.

Except when Monts graduated, he was dragging 22 credit cards behind him, with a balance that 20 years later he will only say was more than he could afford. Late payments trashed his credit score. And everything he wanted to do afterward -- buy his first car, get a mortgage, help finance the church he eventually started in the North End -- was affected by his youthful exuberance.

Things got tough, but slowly Monts made good on his debt, and these days he tells his story from the pulpit, and he counsels couples about their finances. He knows what it's like to want, and then to pay. He's still a snappy dresser, but he's also an expert shopper. He talks to his flock about limits. Clothes go out of style, he tells them. So do cars. Invest in something that lasts.

Sometimes parents forget to say that, and no way will credit-card companies say it.

Watch out, life can kill you

Susan Campbell
The Hartford Courant

Your laser printer can kill you. So can your flip-flops, your mangy teeth and your fat friends.

It is a big scary world out there, and you'd best gird your loins.

Last week, an Australian study said that certain printers emit ultra-fine particles that can enter the lungs and do the same damage as cigarettes do. Printers from the same maker varied widely in their emissions, and even the same models put out different amounts of particles, according to the study. But consider yourself warned.

At water coolers around the world, people gathered for a community cringe, but they didn't drink the water because earlier this year -- in a California contest where champion water-drinkers tried to earn a Nintendo Wii game system -- we learned that drinking too much water can kill you, too.

It gets worse. Not long ago, a respected medical journal said that seniors who can't read health information have a 50 percent greater chance of dying earlier than seniors who are able to understand things such as prescriptions and hospital forms. And though one wonders why this would be news, because the study included numbers, we heaved it onto the pile of Things That Frighten Us.

The pile grows daily, and it's exhausting, yes?

In times past, we've found that death lurks in flip-flops (hard to drive in), dirty teeth (germs in dental plaque) and worrying (something else, the reports said, to fret about).

Drink a little wine for your stomach's sake. Don't drink wine because it contains sulfites, and you could be allergic.

And, more recently, we discover that hanging out with fat friends makes you fat, and we know where that leads, don't we? Last year about this time, a report from the National Cancer Institute said that being a little overweight can kill you (and one study says that about two-thirds of us are overweight or obese). That report rebutted a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study from a year before that said a few extra pounds wouldn't kill you.

These studies -- which fall like acid rain on our summer revelry -- don't necessarily reflect important science. More often, their publication is the result of the energetic pitch of the public relations firms promoting them, coupled with the summer doldrums of the press in desultorily reporting whatever comes down the pike, and then the press' jazzing up the studies for human consumption. "Somewhat lower risk" becomes no risk at all. It is, in our vernacular, a slow news time.

But these days, the warnings are given an extra frison by the mentality that fuels the running joke on the television show "The Simpsons," where Helen Lovejoy, wife of the good Reverend, haunts every gathering with the refrain, "Will someone please think of the chil-dren!" What if we don't pay attention to the latest research, and someone is harmed?

Would that we used a little common sense. We know bad things can happen, and your life can be interrupted forever, but truly horrible events are few and far between, and too often these studies serve no more of a purpose than do campfire ghost stories. We listen. We shiver. We move on. Somewhere along our Information Age, we got stupid. We know too much, or, more likely, we know shockingly little in the context in which it's presented.

So you can assume the fetal position and never come out of your bedroom again. You can avoid the killer printer, eschew all dangerous footwear and wrap the kids in Bubble Wrap, but do you really want to live that way? Better to throw a steak on the grill, crack open a beer and calm down. We're all doing to die, but a laser printer is probably the least of our worries.

Freshman is charged in Delaware State shootings

Susan Kinzie
The Washington Post

A Delaware State University freshman was arrested in his dorm Monday and charged with attempted first-degree murder in a shooting that wounded two students from the District of Columbia and sparked fears of another Virginia Tech incident.

Hours before classes resumed at the Dover campus, Loyer D. Braden, 18, of East Orange, N.J., was arrested at 3:30 a.m. and charged in the shooting early Friday of Shalita Middleton and Nathaniel Pugh III, both 17.

Middleton, a Delaware State freshman, was shot twice in the abdomen and remains hospitalized in serious condition. Pugh, a freshman biology major at Delaware State, was shot once in the ankle.

Braden was charged with attempted murder, assault, reckless endangerment and a weapons violation, according to Capt. Lester Boney of the Dover Police Department.

A university spokesman said Braden apparently left the campus after the shooting and later returned.

"I question the young man's intelligence in coming back to campus this morning, if that's what he did," said the spokesman, Carlos Holmes. "Lord knows what was going through his brain. Maybe he thought he was scot-free."

When asked if it were possible that Braden was on campus all along, Holmes said, "Nope."

On Friday and Saturday, university officials limited access to campus — although students with IDs could always get in — because at that time "we didn't know who the shooter was, didn't know where the shooter was," Holmes said. "By Sunday, they knew who the shooter was, and they knew he wasn't on campus."

Holmes said police had not ruled out the possibility that others were involved in the shooting.

The shooting, which happened shortly before 1 a.m. Friday on the campus's pedestrian mall, was seen by many as the first test of a university's response to a gunman since a student killed 32 people and himself at Virginia Tech in April. Virginia Tech officials have been criticized for not alerting students more swiftly that an armed and dangerous person was at large.

Friday's gunfire shocked the Delaware State campus, and administrators quickly locked down the university as police searched for the gunman.

On Sunday, the campus was opened for parking for the NASCAR race taking place across the street; money from that goes to scholarships, Holmes said. Classes resumed Monday.

While being taken Monday to a justice of the peace, Braden said "I'm sorry" when reporters asked him questions, according to the Associated Press. When asked what he was sorry about, he replied, "She's in the hospital."

Braden was ordered held on a $75,000 secured bond.

Officers from several agencies — including campus police, the state attorney general's office and federal agencies — have been investigating the shootings, interviewing scores of witnesses. Holmes said authorities have not ruled out a "turf war," which some students described as a New Jersey-D.C. conflict, or a fight over a card game earlier in the week, which some students said had become an ongoing dispute. Some said the argument ignited again sometime after midnight; soon afterward, many students were awakened by the sound of gunfire.



Police escort Loyer D. Broden, on 18-yeor-old mon from New Jersey, arrested Monday Sept. 24, 2007, in the shooting of two Delaware State University students, from o Dover, Del., police station to court. (AP)

Pugh's mother has said that her son did not know the person who shot him and that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. She said he had never been in a fight at the university.

Students have created a "Pray for Shalita!!!" page on Facebook.com for Middleton, whose nickname is "Cookie," praising her spirit, energy and beautiful smile.

Braden played basketball at a Catholic high school in New Jersey, according to media reports at the time.

The university has a zero-tolerance policy for certain violations, Holmes said, including having a weapon on campus.

"He was a freshman," Holmes said of Braden. "I don't think he's going to be a freshman anymore."

Celebrity gossip: More important than real life?



Molly Pappas
Editor-in-Chief

As Americans flip through the television stations, they see images of Britney Spears chain smoking, Anna Nicole Smith's baby, Jennifer Aniston's triumph over Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's happiness and baby-adopting addiction. America is celebrity obsessed, and with this fascination comes a desensitizing realization to the nation's and the world's, real problems. But what fuels our endless interest in celebrity news?

Research has discovered that it all depends on the individual doing the 'worshipping' and why. Eric Hollander, M.D., a professor of psychiatry says, "Like most things there's a dimensional approach here; there are some people who are fascinated by celebrities' lives, but also involved in meaningful activities and relationships in their own lives, and for these people star watching is usually a harmless diversion." But for others, the fascination can manifest itself beyond that of a harmless diversion, into that of a replacement of real life. Some experts are going as far to say that our level of fascination may be encoded in our DNA. Stuart Fischoff, Ph.D. and spokesman of the American Psychological Association, says that we are programmed, as social beings, to look up to the alpha males and females of our society. "We are sociologically preprogrammed to 'follow the leader'," Fischoff said.

So, the real issue is whether or not an individual is better able to 'handle' the influence of their DNA more productively. Some experts even have enough evidence to classify 'celebrity worship' as a valid mental health complication. I remember being astonished over how many teenage girls were shown on public television in hysterics because Justin Timberlake shaved off his curly locks. Yeah, maybe I liked his curly hair, but I didn't go ballistic on national television or try to make a nation-wide petition to stop Justin from putting the shaver to his head. That's the difference between harmless diversion and a substitution for real life.

It has been about a week since the shooting of two students at Delaware State University, and news coverage has basically been non-existent. I didn't even LEARN about it until a friend mentioned it to me in passing. Either way, we quickly lose interest, because, let's face it, we've got to check out how Larry Birkhead is doing fathering Dannilynn. The rest of America might have already started to move on, but what about the students, faculty and families associated with the shooting? They may never be able to move on.

I take pride in the fact that I take time to absorb the national, and international, news. Perhaps this is odd for someone my age, but I've come to realize that celebrity gossip doesn't alter our day. (I guess I fall under the "harmless diversion" category.) The O.J. Simpson scandal isn't going to affect whether I go to work, get up in the morning or mourn the loss of a loved on. It saddens me to see that many people's lives are affected to this degree over celeb-gossip.

People are dying, suffering and going hungry. There's mass genocide in Darfur, innocent lives being taken in Iraq and Afghanistan, a monolithic AIDS campaign taking place, organized walks to fight breast cancer, gangs on our streets, sexual assaults and the death of children. Why aren't these things in the news?

I guess sometimes it is easier to push aside life's real problems rather than admit there are matters greater than us in the world.

The 'hip-hop' macarena



Eryn Carter
Managing Editor

As many of you know by now, a new dance has completely taken the country by storm... well, as far as I know, at least Westfield State. It's known as the 'Soulja Boy' dance, which our Editor-in-Chief, Molly, gave a huge thumbs up to this week.

The song is called "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" and with its catchy beat, it's easy to dance to. The dance in the video is what started this new craze. It's fairly repetitive and has you moving around in a circle to do the dance facing each direction, much like the Macarena or the Cotton-Eyed Joe dance.

But that's the only thing that's even close to being similar between these three dances. The 'Soulja Boy' dance is intricate and in many cases you have to know how to dance or have some feel of rhythm to do this dance. It's a series of steps, bouncing and quick maneuvers; complete with a superman-like position.

When I first heard of the now infamous dance, I thought it was the 'SOLDIER Boy' dance. The imagery that popped into my head was of an army guy in his fatigues dancing to a random old school pop-song in front of a camera that he set up and then put on You Tube. After about two weeks, I finally learned what it really was. Now I'm not into hip-hop, but this is quite a fun song. In fact, all of my roommates and I have vowed to learn the dance. It's a good thing I have NO rhythm at all. But either way, I encourage all of you to either check out or even try the new 'hip-hop macarena' and let me know how it goes. Or better yet, send us pictures!

Keefe appointed as new ice hockey coach

COLBY HENDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Westfield State College has announced the hiring of Jerry Keefe, a former Providence College standout, as the new men's hockey head coach. The announcement came last Thursday.

Keefe, a 31 year old native of Lowell who is currently Westfield State's athletic facility manager, will coach the men's ice hockey team when it returns to varsity status for the first time in 20 years, beginning in the fall of 2007.

Keefe's credentials include four seasons at Providence College in which he racked up 98 points in 102 games and was named New England's Most Improved Player in 1999; five seasons in professional hockey, including a season with the Cincinnati Mighty Ducks of the AHL; and, among other coaching positions, assistant coach at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

"I am pleased to have someone with Jerry's hockey pedigree leading our program," said Westfield State athletics director Richard Lenfest. "Being a former player in such competitive arenas as Hockey East and the AHL will certainly help him with recruiting and attracting quality student-athletes to Westfield State. Jerry is professional, enthusiastic and brings an enormous amount of energy to our department. We are excited to have him as a member of our athletics family."

Before his collegiate career at Providence, Keefe was the MVP of the Omaha Lancers of the USHL (United States Hockey League) in 1996 and led the team in scoring for two consecutive seasons. Keefe was also a member of the U.S. National under 17 team in 1993, and the Silver Medal winning under 18 team in 1994.

Keefe considers himself fortunate for having played for some great coaches in his career who have taught him how to be successful, and he looks forward to bringing that same mentality to Westfield.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me and my family, and I am very excited about re-starting a varsity hockey program that has had great success in the past," said Keefe, who is a full-time employee at Westfield State, also serving as the athletics facilities manager.

The team will continue to play under its club status for the 2007-2008 season in where it has been competing since 1999.

Coast Guard cruises by Westfield

Sophomore Pat Bennett returned the second half kickoff 84 yards for a touchdown, and classmate strong safety Keenan Prather returned an interception 28 yards for a touchdown later in the third quarter as defending New England Football Conference Bogan Oivision champion Coast Guard took a 35-0 lead and won its eighth straight NEFC Bogan Oivision game dating back to last season, beating Westfield State 42-14 in the division opener for both teams.

Coast Guard (2-1, 1-0) scored touchdowns on its first two possessions as senior quarterback Christian George (12 carries, 41 yards/9 of 14, 93 yards, 1 INT) capped a nine play, 43-yard drive with a one-yard run with 9:08 left in the first quarter and then following a punt, senior Lance Lynch (16 carries, 71 yards) scored on a three-yard run capping a eight play, 51-yard drive with 4:15 left in the opening quarter. Senior David Lieberman added the extra point on both occasions as the Bears led 14-0.

The Bears pushed the lead to 21-0 as junior quarterback Niles Pierson (6 of 10, 68 yards, 1 TO, 1 INT) threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Sam England (six receptions, 80 yards) and following Lieberman's PAT the Bears led 21-0 with 5:24 left in the first half.

The Coast Guard defense which had given up 69 points in the first two games, held the Owls scoreless in the first half. Late in the second quarter, Coast Guard junior Brian Yurovich had a big tackle for loss on 4th and 1 at the Coast Guard 25-yard line as he stuck running back Jason Proule for a four-yard loss giving the Bears tbe ball back with 3:20 left in the half.

Coast Guard fumbled the ball right back to the Owls at the Bear 43-yard line, but the Coast Guard defense came up big again as Westfield turned the ball over on downs following three straight incomplete passes with 2:05 left.

Coast Guard had 201 total yards at halftime while Westfield State had 162 yards at the break.

Bennett's 84-yard kickoff return on the second half kickoff coupled with Prather's 28-yard interception return for a touchdown on the first play of Westfield's second possesion of the third quarter gave the Bears a 35-0 lead with 10:08 to go in the third quarter. It was the first career touchdown for both Bennett and Prather, who botb started in the Bears' secondary.

Westfield State (1-2, 0-1) would not go quietly as the Owls scored two touchdowns in less than three minutes. Junior quarterback Oan Cohen (22 of 37, 195 yards, 2 TD, 2 INT) threw a pair of touchdown passes to sophomore Oavid Benoit (7 receptions, 84 yards) from 35 and then two yards out cutting the lead to 35-14 with 4:34 left in the third quarter. The Owls drove 57 yards in just six plays for the first score and then junior linebacker Jay Fielding intercepted Pierson and returned it 38 yards to the Coast Guard 13-yard line to set up the second touchdown.

The Owls looked to pull to within 35-21 on the next possession, but sophomore cornerback Kevin Novick grabbed his first career interception in the endzone with 1:11 left in the third quarter.

Coast Guard closed the scoring on George's second touchdown run of the game, a seven-yard dash with 8:15 left in the game.

The Bears had 350 yards of total offense, 201 on the ground while Westfield State finished with 296 total yards, 140 rushing. Senior wide receiver Scott McIntyre led the Owls with 11 catches for 85 yards.

Junior linebacker Brian Michka led Coast Guard with 13 tackles, eight solo, two for loss, one sack and a forced fumble while Bennett added nine tackles all solo. Bennett's kick return for a touchdown was the first Coast Guard kickoff return for a touchdown since Justin Andrews 83-yard kick return vs. Mass. Maritime on Sept. 13, 2003.

Fielding led Westfield State with 10 tackles, seven solo to go with his interception.



The Owls feature the top passing attack in the NEFC, led by junior quarterback Dan Cohen.

Westfield slams Salem

WESTFIELO - The Westfield State College women's volleyball team opened Mass. State Conference play with an easy 3-0 victory over Salem State at the Woodward Center on Saturday, Sept. 15.

The Owls improved to 4-3 overall. Salem is 0-3.

Westfield cruised in the first game, 30-6, and also in game two, 30-10. The Owls won the third game, 30-24.

Sophomore Stephanie Bartkus led the Owls with six kills, five assists, three aces, and six digs, and sophomore middle hitter Alyssa Thiboduau had a team-high seven kills.Lauren Sena registered five kills and Morgan Hosking and Maura McLaughlin each had four.

Senior co-captain Elissa Genereux had 27 assists and five aces. Senior co-captain Krista Grifoni recorded 16 digs and five aces.

Women's soccer stuns MIT, 3-0

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Freshman Kate MacLellan scored a pair of goals and fellow rookie Katrina Lessard netted another – all in the first half – as Westfield State rebounded from a tough loss last Saturday to upend the up-start Engineers, 3-0, Tuesday, at Steinbrenner Stadium.

The loss served as the first home defeat of the season for MIT (6-2-0), while it also snapped a six-match winning streak dating back to Sept. 5.

The Owls (4-5-0) showcased surprising quickness from the start of the contest, while the Engineers were hampered by a stiff head wind as well as a lack of urgency at the offensive end of the pitch.

Westfield State opened the scoring on just the second shot of the match in 15th minute. MacLellan posted the unassisted score off a corner kick. The driving wind blew MacLellan's serve in toward the goal where the ball tipped off the outstretched hands of MIT netminder Stephanie Brenman.

McLellan added her second finish of the day, and ninth of the season, just two minutes later as Colleen Kenney fed McLellan for a door-step score just in front of the MIT goal.

The Owls capped the scoring in the 38th minute with another pretty set-up and finish. Emily Murphy secured the assist after delivering a through ball that split the MIT defense. Freshman Katrina Lessard received the feed before turning to connect on the first goal of her collegiate career.

Brenman made nine saves in a losing effort for MIT, which lost at home for the first time in five matches, while Andrea Knowles only needed to make two stops in a shutout victory for Westfield State. The Owls out shot the Cardinal and Gray, 13-6, including a 10-3 advantage in the first half.

Rookie influence

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Writer

The Boston Red Sox have a minor league system that is envied by many other ball clubs. They have a myriad of talent that is just waiting to be discovered and given a chance to shine in the big leagues.

One prime example of this talent is rookie pitcher Clay Buchholz. On September 1, 2007, Buchholz accomplished an amazing feat. He managed to throw a no hitter against the Baltimore Orioles in just his second major league start.

Buchholz became the first Red Sox rookie to throw a no hitter. The last Red Sox pitcher to throw a no hitter was Derek Lowe in 2002.

The fact that Buchholz was able to stay calm and collected during that game vs. Baltimore shows that he's no ordinary rookie. He proved that he is a player that can stand up to the pressure of playing in the big leagues at an early age, and that he can play under the pressure of being in Boston.

Other helpful additions to the team as a result of September call ups are outfielders Jacoby Ellsbury and Brandon Moss. Both were called up to gain some valuable experience of playing in the minor leagues and to get a feel for the atmosphere.

Ellsbury has impressed many fans with his unsuspecting power at the plate, his speed on the bases, and his dedication in the field. Between those three things, he is a valuable asset to the club and shows that younger players can bring the heat.

Moss hasn't played nearly as much as Ellsbury has, but nonetheless you can still see that he has talent. Whether he plays or not, he is learning what it takes to make it in the big leagues and what he has to do to stay there.

Another Red Sox rookie that absolutely cannot go unnoticed is second baseman Dustin Pedroia. The 2007 season is only his first season in the big leagues, and he has made a lasting impression with his defensive skills and his offense.

Pedroia got off to a slow start at the beginning of the season, batting under .200. However, in the month of May he began to shoot that average up to over .300. During that span he had a 13 game hitting streak to help boost his average.

While watching the Red Sox in the field, some of Pedroia's plays are completely unbelievable. His ability to dive, jump, and do anything to get the ball in his glove to record an out is just amazing. He is the definition of a gold glove second baseman.

Now the question on every Red Sox fan's mind is: Can these rookies help the Red Sox keep their playoff spot? With the injuries to Manny Ramirez and Kevin Youkilis, I believe that these rookies have the talent and ambition to shine through the rest of the season and help the Red Sox stay alive.

Between Buchholz's incredible pitching, Ellsbury's speed and incredible hitting ability, Moss' plays in the field, and Pedroia's remarkable diving stunts at second base, I would say that the Sox still have a pretty good chance of winning the AL East. They have already clinched a playoff spot in the AL Wild Card so no matter what they are going to the playoffs.

We'll see in the last week of the season if the Red Sox can hold their lead in the East over the Yankees. This could be a bumpy ride.

Patriots beat Bills, 38-7

David Heuschkel
The Hartford Courant

The best way, and maybe the only way, for opposing teams to stop Tom Brady and the New England Patriots might be to intercept the offensive signals. Or they could try simply to outscore them.

None of the first three opponents have come close.

The Patriots overcame a slow start and ran over the Buffalo Bills 38-7 Sunday at Gillette Stadium.

How's this for consistency? In all three victories, the Patriots have scored 38 points.

Some of the statistics were just as lopsided as the final score. The Patriots had 485 total yards to Buffalo's 193. The Patriots had 27 first downs and Buffalo 12.

Laurence Maroney rushed for 103 yards on 19 carries to lead a solid Patriots ground game Patriots (177 yards).

"I think the key to the game offensively (was) the offensive line, and the way they performed today was exceptional," Brady said. "It's kind of what they've been doing all year, but they were doing such a good job run-blocking, we had a lot of holes in the run game, and they did a great job of pass-protection."

For the third time in as many weeks, Brady was terrific, completing 23 of 29 passes for 311 yards and tying his career high with four touchdowns. His 150.9 passer rating was also his best.

He's off the charts, at least his.

In three games, Brady has 10 touchdown passes -- one more than he has thrown in any other three-game span. He has a 79.5 completion percentage (70-for-88) and a 141.8 passer rating.

Randy Moss had another big game, catching five passes for 115 yards and two touch downs. He has 22 receptions for 403 yards and five touchdowns.

"How would I guard Randy Moss? I'm not giving away no secrets because right now whatever he's doing is working," Patriots cornerback Ellis Hobbs said. "I'll guard him with a prayer, just: 'Lord, please allow him not to catch the ball on me.' "

Bills cornerback Jabari Greer, who found out Saturday night he was starting in place of Terrence McGee (ribs), could have used some divine intervention.

Greer had good coverage on Moss' first touchdown catch, a 3-yard pass on a slant pattern late in the second quarter that gave the Patriots a 17-7 lead at halftime. Brady just made a perfect throw.

Greer didn't get burned on a 45-yard touchdown pass early in the fourth quarter, either.

"I got Mossed," he said.

Brady lofted a deep pass toward the right corner that Moss hauled in, using every inch of his long reach. It looked like he used only one hand to make the grab.



Photo courtesy of www.metronews.ca

"When Brady let it go, it looked to me like it was going to be an incomplete pass," Patriots Coach Bill Belichick said. "It didn't really look like there was much room for the ball to get in there, and if it did, the defender would probably get it. ... I was a long way away from it. I didn't really get a good look at it, but when the ball left his hand the last thing I was thinking was, 'This is going to be a touchdown.' "

Brady didn't think it was too long.

"Nope, I haven't overthrown him yet," he said.

The touchdown gave Moss more than 100 receiving yards for the 49th time, and he became the first receiver in NFL history with three 100-plus yards in each of his first three games with a new team.

Wes Welker had a team-high six receptions for 69 yards. But it was his two long punt returns that gave the Patriots good field position, setting up touchdown drives in the second quarter.

Monthly WSC Athletics Press Briefing

Wednesday, October 3rd



Ely Campus Center Main Lounge – 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Students and Campus Community invited to attend

- College TV, radio, newspaper to cover each - and Communication Dep't classes and/or other academic classes to attend and participate.
- Local newspapers and other media invited to each (Monthly WSC Athletics Press Briefing).



- College Radio broadcast live.
- College TV – possible carry live on College cable channel.
- Question/answer period after Athletic Dep't presentation.

Topics:

1. Varsity Athletics; immediate past games, upcoming games, special features (coaches, players, alum's,).
2. Hall of Fame Induction – October 19th

Presented through the Special Programs Office, Student Affairs Division

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Fri 09/28	Welcome Week & Family Day 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Parenzo Hall/ Dever Auditorium	Red Sox vs Minnesota 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Ely Low Lounge	Kid's Night Out Program 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm Ely 130
Sat 09/29	Family Day 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Ely Main Lounge, Campus Green, SLR	Welcome Week & Family Day 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Dever Auditorium	Red Sox vs Minnesota 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Ely Low Lounge
Sun 09/30	Red Sox vs Minnesota 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm Ely Low Lounge	Roman Catholic Mass 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm and 4:00pm to 5:00 pm Chapel Upstairs	Weekend Program Snack Night 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm Ely Main Lounge
Mon 10/01	Patriots at Cincinnati 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm Ely Main Lounge	Flags of the World 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Ely Lobby 1	Faculty/Staff Exercise Group 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Parenzo 013
Tues 10/02	Parking Appeal Hearings 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Ely 232	Rock Wall Open to WSC Community and Families 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Rock Wall	Radio WSKB 89.5 Meeting 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Ely Low Lounge
Wed 10/03	Breast Cancer Awareness Association 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Ely Main Lounge	Class of 2009 Meeting 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Woodward Court 3	FYE Seminar Class 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm SBH ABCD
Thurs 10/04	Class of 2010 Meeting 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Ely SGA Conference Room	Web Dessign Made Easy 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm Bates Multi Lab 04	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Ely SGA Conference Room

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime. all majors welcome!



ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII October 5, 2007 Issue V

Commuter lot: The ongoing issue

TATYANA PYSHNYAK
VOICE REPORTER

Constant complaints have been heard about how commuters feel cheated out of their rightfully bought parking spaces in the Commuter Lot. Many commuter students say buying a Commuter Lot decal should guarantee a spot, not in South Lot, but in the designated commuter parking area.

This year both the South Lot and the Commuter Lot decals cost $75. The longer walk costs as much as the shorter one. Where is the sense in that? Shouldn't the price for South Lot be cheaper for commuters then? Even then, shouldn't the students be entitled to a space they paid for? So why isn't anything being done to give commuters the treatment they deserve?

Filip Bochkar, a senior at WSC, describes his morning commute experiences as "the worst" on Monday, Wednesday and Friday around noon. This, he believes, is because most of the commuters are in class at this time. At that hour, finding a parking space is near impossible.

Even though when he arrives on Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. and there are spaces available, Bochkar thinks that the Commuter Lot should be expanded or some additional parking lot should be built closer than South Lot. Another idea he has is to convert some available faculty parking space into commuter spaces.

Last year, even when using the overflow parking, Bochkar learned that even South Lot has limits to the commuting students. Upon parking his vehicle, he was apprehended by an officer who informed him that he was parked in the wrong area. The policeman pointed to a specified section of South Lot. When moving his car, Bochkar was lucky to find a space within that section since there were only a few available spaces.

Tom Cangialosi, a junior, also shares some of Bochkar's views. Cangialosi commutes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a 10:25 class, and Tuesdays and Thursdays for a 9:45 class. Each day, he also has to compete for parking spaces. "It's ridiculous that they sell a large number of passes but do not have enough parking," he said. After two years of commuting to WSC, Cangialosi noticed that each year "it gets progressively worse."

Cangialosi thinks that commuters who pay for the Commuter Lot should be able to park in the church parking lot next door. Since there are usually no church activities in the morning, Cangialosi suggests that it should be arranged that, at least in the morning, students could utilize the adjacent church parking.

These two students' parking woes help illustrate the parking lot problems that are experienced by commuters daily. Should students have to arrange their arrivals based on when a class ends and when students are supposedly vacating their spaces? Not only are commuters not accommodated in the Commuter Lot, but they are also restricted in the South Lot. Is this how commuters should be treated? And how can one help change this?

There are certain groups on campus that are considering issues such as these. Joining the Commuter Council or the Student Government may be a step in the right direction towards taking an active role in resolving some of these commuter concerns.

10 ways to spot a freshman

1. They wear their laynards around their necks.

2. They travel in packs.

3. They dress up to go to the DC & 8:15 classes.

4. DC = social hour

5. Miniskirts & Ugg boots are in no matter what season it is.

6. They make rounds in the Apt. Complex for cool parties on the weekends.

7. Their parents come up for Family Day.

8. They actually utilize the gym.

9. They are the only ones on campus who get 10-100s.

10. They look lost when walking to class.

Submitted by Lisa Wilkinson & Randi Lucius

The legend of Courtney Circle

ROB MCGINNITY
VOICE REPORTER

While walking outside Courtney Hall, passerbys may all of a sudden see someone make a change in direction to avoid walking over the brick circle in front of the residential building. Why do people decide to take that course of action?

Many Westfield State College students have heard numerous rumors which entail bad luck to the crosser of the circle. Some rumors prevalent around campus are myths of becoming pregnant or failing out of school. A twist on one of the myths is that you can't walk across the circle and look at Courtney or you'll fail out.

Failing out of school or flunking classes is more directed to the men around campus whereas becoming pregnant is a girl specific myth. Many male students who don't believe in the myth often joke about becoming pregnant after proceeding through the circle. The real matter is how many students on campus actually believe in this bad luck circle.

Students were observed walking by the circle for an hour or so one day, and an interesting statistic was discovered. The ratio of students that walk in the circle opposed to those that don't is eight to one. For every eight students that don't think anything of walking through some circle, there is one person who feels very different on the matter. These people make an obvious point of going around the big brick circle. There are many differing opinions on the matter, however.

John Pappas, a sophomore, has never heard anything about the circle. The first he heard of the folklore surrounding Courtney Circle is when he was questioned on the subject. He isn't alone with his ignorance on the circle. Fellow students, one a junior and the other a sophomore, also had never heard about any bad luck involved with the circle until told about it.

On the other hand, WSC students Dave Karr and Kyle Dubois steer clear of the middle of the circle whenever they pass by. Both students have walked through the circle only once but that was before Karr was told by a sophomore friend, and Dubois was informed during orientation. Since that point, both make a conscious effort to steer clear of the middle of the circle. This even goes for times when they are with a group of people that decide to pass through. On the other side of things, a junior girl said she doesn't believe in it. She walks through the circle everyday and she has yet to become pregnant, cursed or flunk out of school. A group of juniors reported that they themselves, as well as others, hangout in the circle at night time. No ill-will has happened to them up to this point and most had never heard the rumors about the circle until this year.



Photo courtesy of www.wsc.ma.e..u

How have these myths gotten passed down and why is there a big brick circle outside of Courtney? Many students have said they've heard about Courtney Circle from older students. Others have heard things during orientation and by word of mouth from friends on campus. The most popular story is that there use to be a big tree in front of Courtney, where the circle now resides. Students vandalized this tree, which lead to its removal some time ago. It was replaced by the bricks you see now. These bricks are still holding up strong many years later, although some are cracked and missing. Some may say that makes it dangerous, others think it adds character.

Whether there is something to the folklore of Courtney Circle or not, it will be interesting to see how long this superstition is around here at Westfield State College.

Check out "Pictures from around campus!" Pages 13 & 14

NEW: Horoscopes Pages 15 & 16

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Family Fun Day 2007 great success

Andie Biagini
Voice Reporter



Photo by Karen Evans

On Saturday, Sept. 29, Westfield celebrated Family Day 2007. The event was a chance for students to reconnect with family members that, in some cases, they hadn't seen since moving in. Family Day holds the biggest draw for freshman whose parents are often still suffering from a little empty-nest syndrome and need to spend some time with their precious angels. Still, there was something for everyone.

The festivities started off at 10 a.m. with brunch in the Dining Commons. While this wasn't such a novel experience for students, parents and siblings enjoyed a glimpse of everyday life at college. There was entertainment on the Campus Green for most of the day. The Student Government Association sponsored their annual Family Fun on the Green events, which included kid-friendly games and activities. Students and their guests could enjoy the music of Dave Binder, Project Mayhem, Skasome Society and Maverick West. If that was a little too polished, they could head over to Family Karaoke to hear the amateurs take a turn at the microphone. Sports fans could stop by and cheer for Westfield's women's field hockey and men's soccer teams. Families could top their day off with a little taste of the islands at the West Indies Festival. They were also able to go see the cast of Broadway Comes to Westfield, that gave stellar performances of songs from popular musicals like Wicked and Avenue Q.

Overall, Family Day was a fun way to take a break from the daily grind and see the people we love. Thanks for the care package, Mom and Dad. See you at Thanksgiving!

Editor's Desk



As everyone probably knows, the TV show, Grey's Anatomy opened with its fourth season last Thursday night. I happen to be obsessed with the show. Meredith Grey and I are very similar in some respects, but my friends tell me I'm most like Izzie Stevens. That's not a bad deal. She's awesome AND she was engaged to that hot patient!

Anyway, I came across a Grey's Anatomy quote that seemed suiting for this time in our lives, so I wanted to share it.

"I've heard that it's possible to grow up - I've just never met anyone who's actually done it. Without parents to defy, we break the rules we make for ourselves. We throw tantrums when things don't go our way, we whisper secrets with our best friends in the dark, we look for comfort where we can find it and we hope - against all logic, against all experience. Like children, we never give up hope..."
[Grey's Anatomy]

I don't know about you guys, especially seniors, but I'm sure as hell not ready to grow up yet.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Experimental education

Fast forward to graduation – for some of you this is coming sooner rather than later! The end result of all of the papers that you will write, the exams that you will study for and the presentations that you deliver for your courses is the recognition from Westfield State College faculty and staff, friends and family as you walk across the stage that your hard work paid off and you have successfully completed the requirements to earn your bachelor's degree. Some of you will have your sights set on professional employment while others will continue to expand their knowledge in graduate school. Regardless of which path you decide to take, it is important to gain experience in your field.

Think about what you have done in your professional field at this point in your academic career. What have you done to prepare yourself for life after Westfield State College? Are you involved in clubs, working in your field either through internships/cooperative education or part-time employment, demonstrating your leadership skills on campus? If your resume is looking a little bare or you want to gain additional experience in your field, you should consider doing an internship or co-op. Graduate schools and employers will want to know what you have done to apply the skills and knowledge gained from classroom learning to practical, on-the-job experiences.

Companies use their internship programs to assess and recruit potential new hires. National research has shown that employers hire more than half of their co-op students and interns after graduation. Graduate schools are much more competitive than undergraduate colleges and universities. Many graduate programs require that you have a certain number of internships or volunteer hours in your field before you are admitted into the program. Your resume will play a strong role in your consideration for admission.

There are numerous benefits to doing an internship or co-op. Internships/co-ops provide students the opportunity to develop professional contacts, explore career goals and gain practical experience in their field. Students in good academic standing and who meet departmental requirements can earn up to 15 academic credits combined of practicum, internship, community service or cooperative education experiences. Career Services maintains an online job database, Owl Link, of over 550 internship and co-op sites at https://www.myinterfase.com/westfield/student/home.aspx.

If you think that you might be interested in doing an internship or co-op, contact Career Services at 572-5206 to meet with a career counselor or talk with your faculty advisor.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Extended hours at the WSC library



PDA

Ruth Ellen Kocher

Erin Broshahan
Voice Reporter



On Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Scanlon Living Room, Ruth Ellen Kocher shared her poetry with students of Westfield State College.

Kocher attended Penn State University as an undergraduate student and then went on to continue her education at Arizona State. She now teaches at the University of Colorado at Boulder and has three published collections of poetry. Throughout her education, and even before it started, Kocher has been writing poetry.

At her reading, students had the opportunity to hear her read her own work in a song-like, enchanting style. Kocher read twelve of her poems, many of which that were from her manuscript "The First Gods." This manuscript has been a work in progress for three years, and only recently has Kocher found the missing piece that would complete the collection.

Kocher also engaged her audience by adding her own conversation-like commentary, which lead the way for the onslaught of intriguing student questions that came after her performance. Kocher rewarded her audience with well thought out answers that proved to be a good ending for a night of wonderful poetry.

WSC still plugged into the wall

Mike Kearney
Voice Reporter

Any student on campus knows what it takes to get connected to the Internet in their rooms. It means intricately placing those long red or blue Ethernet cables under the rug or taping them along the wall or ceiling, doing anything possible to keep those cables out of sight and out of the way. Once finally connected to the net, most students are only restricted as far as that cable can reach; in most cases that may not even mean a desk.

"I have to use my lap top on my bed when I'm online because the Ethernet cable is too short to even reach my desk," complains WSC student Matt Palmer. Palmer dreams of a world wear he will not be constricted by wires and he can carry his laptop anywhere and not have to worry about trailing a twelve foot cord behind him. This is a world Chris Hirtle, Director of Information Technology is attempting to bring to Westfield State.

"We started a three-phase plan to make the entire campus wireless about a year and a half ago," said Hirtle. Phase one of this wireless plan is to make all the academic buildings have wireless connections, including the Dining Commons. Phase two is to have all the open space on campus wireless, including the campus green and Stanley Park. Finally, phase three is to have all the residence halls done. "We are currently at the end of phase one of the program and are starting on open space this year," said Hirtle.

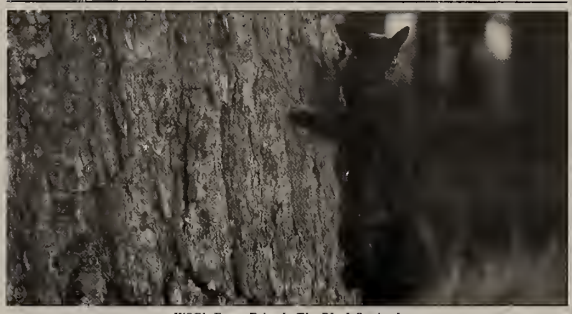
This plan may come as a major aggravation for students, seeing as the residence halls are going to be the last places on campus that will receive wireless. Information Technology's reason behind having the residence halls done last is, "We already knew that all the dorms had internet connections through Ethernet cables, so we decided to get the rest of the campus that had no coverage at all (such as open space and all academic buildings) wireless then do the residence halls," said Hirtle.

Assistant Director of Network Administrations, Aaron Childs also added how difficult it is to place wireless access points in the dorms. "Davis Hall alone would have to have 41 access points, because of how old it is and the way it was built," Childs said. He explained that it takes a long time to determine where these access points should be placed, so that the entire building can receive the best signal possible. "It's difficult because something as small as a microwave oven can interfere with our wireless signal," said Childs.

So why is it taking so long to get the wireless done and completed? Hirtle explained that they are trying their best to get it done as quickly as possible, but that it takes time. I.T. works hand in hand with Facilities and Operations on campus, and since they are already backed up with the construction (which has major delays of its own) and everything else on campus that needs to get done, it is causing delays. "We just hope that students will be patient because we are just as anxious to complete the wireless as they are," said Hirtle.

If you want wireless access, there are places you can go on campus. Currently all academic buildings have wireless except 333, which Hirtle assures it will be completed by next week. Also Ely and the library, Scanlon Banquet Hall and the DC all have wireless connections. Another option is if you live in Scanlon or the Senior Apartments closest to Western Ave., you may want to make friends with the neighbors across the way and possibly plug into their wireless routers.

When all is said and done Hirtle expects it to be another two years until full coverage reaches across campus. With the academic buildings being completed next week, they are starting to move on to having open space completed throughout this academic year and into the following summer. Then, next year they are planning to start on the residence halls. This is frustrating for basically everyone planning to live on campus the next two years. It means that the students are forced to continue hiding those Ethernet cables under the rug or running them along the ceiling panels to avoid tripping over them, which ultimately results in anger and frustration towards the wires, which in turn results in unhappy students, which will then begin to affect our grades because we are so aggravated that we still don't have wireless.



WSC's Furry Friend - The Black Squirrel

Photo by Karen Evans

News brief: Jena 6 update

Erica Forish
Voice Reporter

Mychal Bell had been in prison for 10 months with a bail set at $90,000 for his involvement in the beating of another student.

On Sept. 27, 2007, the courts decided that Bell should never have been tried as an adult, thereby moving him into the juvenile justice system. Upon being transferred into the juvenile justice system, the judge lowered his bail to $45,000. On Sept. 27, Bell was released from custody because a stranger posted his $5,400 (12 percent) bond, the minimum amount necessary for Bell to be released from prison.

Bell is currently readjusting to life at home with his family.

How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

Make Quick and Easy Resumes, Cover Letters and More with the Free OptimalResume Software

Need a resume? Want a cover letter? Feel like you should brush up on those interview skills? As a student at WSC, we are excited to provide you with the OptimalResume online software suite.

OptimalResume can help you take care of all of these things and more. This easy-to-use online software allows you to quickly and effortlessly create essential professional documents such as resumes and cover letters, as well as investigate crucial job-related skills such as the practice interview or skills assessment. You can even send your results directly to the Career Center online for review and comments!

Best of all, it's free for students!

You have probably struggled with various resume templates in the past and found them to be more frustrating than helpful. Imagine how nice it would be to develop your document with easy to use online tools, examples and suggestions.

OptimalResume: Now, each student can store up to five individual resumes and return anytime in the future to update them, even years after they graduate. The resume output can take many forms, and each student has control over how the resume looks and works, all with a simple clickable interface. Assistance includes examples and formats, spell checking, action words and a stylist function to aid in making the resume unique and attractive.

Your finalized resume can be published to the Internet using an optionally password-protected, user-specific web address. The software includes extensive control over how your resume will be formatted and viewed, both on paper and online. Sending your results directly to the Career Center for online review and comments saves time and waiting for an appointment.

NEW IN 2007:

Several new features have been added this year, including the Cover Letter and Portfolio tools. It has never been easier to prepare well written documents for internship and job applications.

OptimalEfolio: In addition to OptimalResume, the Career Center will be offering OptimalEfolio, an online portfolio builder, free to current students. If you have documents or projects that you would like to show to employers, an OptimalEfolio is an excellent complement to your resume. Users can choose from a File Cabinet, where employers can download documents to their own computers for review or a Slide Show to showcase projects in an interactive online slide show.

This program is easy and convenient to use, and finished portfolios can be made accessible from your OptimalResume website. It is also compatible with many popular file types, including .DOC, .XLS, .PDF, .ZIP, .JPG, .TXT and .WAV. Through the OptimalEfolio Builder, you can also add special comments and viewing requirements to your portfolio for added customization. To see the OptimalEfolio Builder in action, visit http://wsc.optimalresume.com to open a free account and create your online portfolio.

OptimalLetter Builder: Beginning this semester, students will have access to a groundbreaking new addition to the Optimal Resume family, the OptimalLetter Builder. With this tool, you can create your own cover letters from scratch and download them into three convenient formats: Microsoft Word Compatible, Plain Text and Email. In addition, any letters you create can be made viewable on your OptimalResume website, providing employers with a dynamic new interface with which to view your documents.

Optimal Resume's products are known for their user-friendliness, and OptimalLetter is no exception. If you are new to writing cover letters, the Letter Builder provides useful hints and instructions to help you every step of the way. You can choose from a variety of letter types, suitable to your career needs and each letter you make is fully customizable.

Coming Soon – OptimalInterview – we can't wait to show you this new tool. Stay tuned!

OptimalResume can be accessed via a link in the Career Center website, or directly at wsc.OptimalResume.com. Try it today – you will be glad you did!

Maureen McCartney
Director
WSC Career Center

Small newspaper raises big questions

Erica Forish
Voice Reporter

On Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, the student newspaper of Colorado State University, "The Rocky Mountain Collegian" published an editorial that has gained national attention. A bold font approximately twice the size of normal headlines conveyed a four-word message: "Taser This... FUCK BUSH."

The editorial is referring to the recent incident that occurred in Florida. A University of Florida student was tasered by campus security when he disrupted Senator John Kerry's forum. The action was taken in order to silence the student, thereby raising the issue of one's right to the freedom of speech.

Editor-in-Chief of The Collegian, J. David McSwane responded to the incident by publishing an editorial that was intended to provoke a discussion about the freedom of speech (as well as freedom of the press). The language used in the editorial succeeded in sparking a debate regarding First Amendment rights.

As news of the incident became more widespread, McSwane reacted by publishing an explanation that clarified the intentions of the editorial board. It read in part that "while the statement was undeniably political, we feel that the more important statement was in our support of freedom of speech on college campuses."

Later in the day CSU also released a statement regarding the editorial:

"While we understand that the editorial in today's Rocky Mountain Collegian is upsetting and offensive to many people, CSU is prohibited by law from censoring or regulating the content of its student media publications."

The newspaper itself has suffered financial consequences due to the incident because many businesses, offended by the language, pulled advertisements from the publication. The Collegian's budget, based entirely on advertising revenue, lost approximately $30,000 as a result of running the editorial, thereby reducing the budget (including students' pay) by 10 percent.

In response to the editorial, CSU Republicans held a rally against McSwane on Monday, Sept. 24, that emphasized the belief that "being profane is not the same as being profound." University President, Larry Edward Penley also released a statement that reflected his stance on the incident:

"Members of a university community ought to be expected to communicate civilly and rationally in support of even unpopular viewpoints. I am disappointed the The Collegian's recent editorial choices do not reflect the expectations we have for our student journalists."

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, The Board of Student Communications organized an open meeting to discuss public opinion regarding the incident. The meeting began at 7 p.m. in a room full of students, faculty, community members and nine members (three faculty and six students) of the BSC. Supporters and protesters alike swarmed the meeting to express their opinions on the controversial editorial. They also came with petitions in hand. Supporters advocating McSwane's right to free speech gained 750 signatures while those in opposition to the editorial only collected 500 signatures.

The following day, Wednesday, Sept. 26, McSwane met with the BSC to discuss the incident in a fact-findings session. The Board will announce its decision as to whether or not the editorial violated CSU's student media policies on Thursday, Oct. 4. Once decided, there will be another hearing to determine the penalties against McSwane. A minor punishment would result in an informal hearing, while a more severe punishment would require a formal hearing to be held. The Board has the ultimate authority in sentencing McSwane, who refuses to voluntarily step down from his position as Editor-in-Chief. Options under consideration include terminating McSwane from the newspaper's staff or suspending him from the university.

The student media policies specifically address the use of profane or vulgar language.

Such language should "not be used in news accounts or letters to the editor unless they are considered by the Editor-in-Chief to be essential to the readers' understanding of the situation." Furthermore, the policy states that "profane and vulgar words are not acceptable for opinion writings."

McSwane admits that although his team of six editors did not unanimously agree on running the editorial, they did spend three hours discussing the article's level of appropriateness and merit before it was approved for publication. In light of the current situation, the entire editorial staff supports McSwane and stands behind their decision.

Responses to the incident vary greatly from praise to commendation. The majority of the journalistic community expresses the opinion that just because one has the right to say something does not mean that something is right to say. In other words, one should not abuse his or her rights to freedom of speech and freedom of the press simply because he or she is protected by the First Amendment.

Persona: WSC Literary Magazine

Ashlee Hazeltine
Special to The Voice

Let's say that you're a creative writer looking for an outlet to explore your writing. Or you're an artist who loves to showcase your work. Or maybe you're just someone who likes to review other people's work, so you can give your opinion. If you said yes to any of these, then Westfield State's Art and Literary Journal *Persona* is the publication for you.

Student submitted and student edited, *Persona* is published once a year at the end of the semester in May. The journal publishes everything from poetry, fiction, essays and plays, to drawings and paintings. We accept pretty much anything, so get your creative juices running!

You don't have to be an English major to appreciate the art of writing or an art major to appreciate the beauty of a painting, so if this is something you think you'd be interested in, feel free to e-mail Ashlee Hazeltine at ahazeltine0165@wsc.ma.edu with any questions that you might have! If you'd like to pick up a copy of last year's *Persona* issue, stop by the English Office in Bates, across the hall from 118.

GSU president orders 'hanging photo' off newspaper web site

Chris Day
Shreveport Times

A recent incident at the elementary school on the Grambling State University campus that resulted in a noose hanging around a small child's neck has left university officials scrambling for answers.

Grambling State University President Horace Judson was driving to Dallas on Friday afternoon for the Saturday football game between GSU and Prairie View when his secretary called him, describing certain pictures that had been posted online by the student newspaper, The Gramblinite.

Among the photos immediately ordered taken down by Judson was one of a young girl in a school uniform, a noose around her neck, being hoisted by a woman who may have been a family member.

In the photo, the girl, a student at Alma J. Brown Elementary School at Grambling, appears confused and frightened. GSU oversees the school. The child apparently was taking part in a school lesson related to events surrounding the Jena Six, criminal defendants in that Louisiana town who stand accused of beating a fellow student into unconsciousness. Their arrests on adult charges have spawned organized protests by black leaders and national attention.

"At this point I'm starting a full investigation into what happened," Judson said in a phone interview from his car while en route to Dallas. "I will meet with all the people involved at 8 o'clock Monday morning."

The Gramblinite staff leaders could not be reached for comment on the incident.

According to an article in the newspaper written by Justin LaGrande, posted on the student newspaper Web site some time this week, and sent to The News-Star by Ruston Daily Leader publisher Rick Hohlt, "kindergarten and first-grade students at Alma J. Brown Elementary will always remember the day they marched for equality. The children marched in protest of the imprisonment of Mychal Bell, and the seemingly racial bias shown toward blacks in a small Louisiana town."

LaGrande wrote that while the students "marched," they actually only circled their playground with their teachers during the event.

"Before marching, the students were taught about racism," LeGrande wrote. "They also learned about the events surrounding the 'Jena Six' and their arrest."

According to the article, teachers "had a replica noose and explained why it is such a symbol of racism. They also allowed the children to carry chains and shackles."

The Gramblinite's Web site Friday included a comment from a woman who identified herself as Irene Booker. She said in her posted comment, "Yes, it was a rope around the little girl's neck. It was a (safe) demonstration as to what the rope symbolized to blacks. This was my granddaughter and she along with so many of the other students did not understand the intimidation of the noose. I held her in my arms and she knows that I would not harm her or put her life in danger. In order to understand racism one must experience it to make the connection."

Judson said Sean Warner, dean of the College of Education, has spoken with the principal of the elementary school about the incident.

"This is very serious. I will say that," Judson said. "I'll have a face-to-face meeting with everyone involved. We're going to find out what the facts are. At this point I don't know if my students were involved.

"These are minors at our school and this is a student paper that still must practice complete accountability," he said.

Given the nature of the situation, Judson said, "it was certainly my judgment to take those pictures down."

Voices Overheard

What is your favorite class you've taken at WSC?



Catharine Nguyen
Class of 2011
Criminal Justice

"English Composition with Beverly Lucey."



James Dinh
Class of 2010
Communications

"Writing for The Media with Jill Treadwill."



Kym Dudek
Class of 2009
Communications

"Communication Theory with Susan Leggett"



Jimmy Ottino
Class of 2008
Business

"Speech with Sabine Klien because I like to talk a lot."

Compiled by Jenn Krok

Friendships v. Sara Charbonneau



Sara Charbonneau
Voice Columnist

There's a quote that my friend Gillian has in her profile that basically sums up my entire article before I even begin it. It's from Laguna Beach, and while I don't think LB is really a good place to find a quote (I mean really, a quote from kids who own everything and then some? Buy me a new Mercedes and then we'll talk), I feel like it actually says something. Now that myself and many of my peers are getting older – and by older I mean, 21 and 22 years old, a lot of our friendships (and I use the term friend very loosely) are beginning to seem trivial and not as important as they used to be.

The quote that I'm referring to is "It's just something that happens as you grow up. You realize it's less important to have more friends and it's more important to have real ones".

Did anyone else Amen to that? Because I certainly did. A lot has happened in my life this summer, which perhaps made me a bit more cynical that I should be, but when I take a good look at my top friends list on Facebook, I wonder who I would actually call in ten years to let them know about a new promotion or to tell them some other good news.

I'm getting married in June of 2009 and I've recently been considering who to have in my wedding. When I was younger, I always imagined all of my best friends in pretty dresses, hair done and make up perfect. Now, I don't even know if some of those people will get an invitation. And that really makes me sad.

A lot of friendships in life come and go, and it's difficult to determine which ones will stand the tests of time. At this point, I think I know the ones that will stick. The ones that I know will get in the wedding pictures, the ones that will get the phone call when I have kids or the ones who I'll see on a Sunday afternoon for drinks and a BBQ. They're the ones who are truly important in life, and I hope that stays that way.

Then there are the people who I can tell right now, once school ends, so will our "friendships". Friendship is such an unfastened word in our society. On Facebook and MySpace, we're all "friends" and on AIM, we're "buddies". But in reality, we're mostly all just acquaintances. I'm assuming that most of you are reading this saying, "oh, this chick just doesn't have many friends so she's letting out her aggression in The Voice", but right now I want you to think of Thursday night at a crowded house party, standing over the keg, everyone screaming and laughing and falling over drunk. How many of these people would you be proud to introduce to your elderly grandparents? How many of these people would you seriously leave your infant with to go away for the weekend with your husband or wife? I'm not asking this for maturity purposes, because yes, many of these people will mature as they grow older and leave thier college crazy party years behind. I'm asking who you honestly believe you will be able to call up, have them actually remember who you are, and then hand over your child. I've been to those house parties – and to be completely frank, I don't think I could name more than three people that I think I'll ever actually see again after graduation, let alone hand over my flesh and blood baby.

Friendship is a serious word, and unfortunately it's used entirely too carelessly. A true friend is someone that you know will always be there for you, despite distance, other friendships, marriages, kids, new jobs, promotions or new Beamers. Friendship is the person who you can take a long car ride with and not feel it necessary to keep up the conversation 24/7. Friendship is thinking of the person who will help you get ready on the day of your wedding, the person who will fluff your dress (or help you figure out where the hell the cummerbund goes) or the person that you will take the pictures with that will sit atop your mantel for the rest of your life. Friendship is knowing that if you needed them – 2 a.m. at a sleezy hotel in Philly – that they would jump in their car to come pick you up. That's friendship. And I'm the luckiest girl in the world to have some of the best of them.

If you put the pedal to the metal make sure you know the price



Caitlin Penndorf

Opinion & Editorial Editor

I was driving home from work on Saturday night, in a bad mood (because let's be honest, who comes home from work in a good mood?), when I got behind a red car going an unbearably slow speed. As I said sarcastically to myself, "way to top off a great night", I glanced down at my speedometer and realized that this unbearably slow speed that was driving me nuts was actually 35, the speed limit.

Oops! I had been going 10 miles over and then gotten frustrated at some poor person who was just trying to not get pulled over. However, the person did slowly roll a stop sign a few seconds later. I guess if you go the speed limit, you're exempt from all other rules of the road.

But this whole thing made me think, "When does anyone really go the speed limit?" Sure, as a cop drives by, everyone immediately slows down, averts their eyes and attempts to look like they're so engrossed in the road, they didn't even notice the cruiser pass them by. But besides a passing by cop or being behind a road do-gooder, can you really admit that you've actually done twenty five in a twenty five zone?

I tried to test out my theory coming back to school on Sunday. Besides the fact that I got lost (yes, as a sophomore at Westfield who travels to home and back here frequently, I got lost trying to get back to school a different way than usual), I found that the speed limit was something that while I tried to obey it, seemed like it would be dangerous to actually do. People would get so close to the back of my car, I had to speed up to avoid an accident.

My point is, should people get punished for going a few miles faster than the speed limit? Sure, going fifty-five in a twenty-five is very risky; I do understand that. But if a group of cars is following the flow of traffic, how would a cop pick out the one to pull over? Or do they even pull over people in that type of situation? If they don't, then what makes it different if you're going forty on a road by yourself?

All of these questions can be directly related to Mitt Romney and one of the final bills he signed as our Governor. He created a law that effects people with a junior operator's licenses (the vertical licenses that are a permanent reminder that you're not 21 yet) who are pulled over for speeding. They will receive a ninety day license suspension, have to pay a $500 reinstatement fee, take a "Driver Attitudinal Retraining Course" and have to retake their full driver's exam, according to the Massachusetts's Registry of Motor Vehicle's website. That's just their first offense.

A little harsh, don't you think Romney? So you may ask, what happens to the people who do not have a junior operator's license and get pulled over for speeding? They just get a ticket.

So if you're under twenty one, think before you speed up a little bit to get through that yellow light (or orange as my roommate would call it). It could be a lot more of a hassle than you think.

Time heals



Nicole Slyvester

Voice Columnist

There are more serious trials and tribulations to endure than a break up. But, in my case break ups are the most serious trials that I am familiar with and the most entertaining to look back on.

I'm not a girl who's had a number of serious relationships. I can narrow my list of serious boyfriends who have changed my life to 3, and I'm 21. As you can guess from my limited commitments, each break up was earth shattering. I can clearly remember the weeks following each break up, and the nights spent crying in my best friend's bed. I remember how betrayed, empty or bopeless I felt. But lately I've noticed an interesting phenomenon.

On a semi-regular basis I bump into one of my three ex boyfriends; we'll call him Number One. Three years ago when he 'broke my heart' (you'll have to excuse my use of quotations. This is a slightly sarcastic comment because I've noticed that every time a girl suffers through a break up she thinks it's the worst one and she'll never recover. This is not the case. I will explain in a moment.) I thought I would never move on. Yet, I see him, I speak to himand I feel nothing. I can carry on a perfectly normal, - ahem- possibly overly sarcastic, conversation. That's just my style; I tend to think I'm funnier than I am and try to impress all those around me with my wit.

On the other hand, you have Number Three. Just the mention of his name begins a torrent of x-rated images and flashbacks of conversations. I haven't seen him in months, but I can tell you clear as day how you can tell when he's mad, what he does with his hands when he's talkingand how his kiss made me weak in the knees.

I hope to God, just about everyday, that this is not because he was the ONE. Instead I believe in my latest revelation.

We've all heard it a million times before. Whether it's mom, our best friend or someone who barely knows us, this seems to be a catchall phrase for any emotional pain a person could endure: "Time heals all wounds..." A few months ago I would have answered, 'Yea, so does Neosporin.' But, for the first time I'm beginning to realize that this platitude is actually true. I'm sure that when Number One, and the unmentioned Number Two broke my heart I felt just the same way. In the months following, I could have told you all of these minute details about them. And I probably missed them just as much as I miss Number Three. When Number One 'broke my heart' I thought I'd never fall for anyone the same again. Yet I did. And harder each time I fell. Each time a girl gets hurt is not the last, and it's not the worst. One just needs to put chronological space between these assbags and themselves and eventually they will not have hot flashes (whether its shame or passion I'm not quite sure) when those undesired but karmically unavoidable exchanges take place.

I can only hope that the flip side of this platitude is true. To quote the late, great John Lennon, "I firmly believe that time wounds all heels."

The fairs of fall



Eryn Carter

Managing Editor

It's that time of year again. The time where fairs are found everywhere. In a two week time period, I went to two. That's a lot of fried food, a lot of crowds and... a lot of hicks that I'm pretty sure come out JUST to eat their way through.

The Big E was my first fair of September. I've been going there since I was about 16, mainly for horse shows and competitions, never actually for the fair. After battling traffic and parking at some creepy side garage, we managed to get into the fair. Personally $15 dollars is a rip-off. Especially with all the money you have to spend on food, drinks and whatever else you want to buy.

The first stop that day was... the petting zoo. Mainly because they're was a camel and how often do you get to see a camel? So we battled kids and unruly adults a like, yes I said UNRULY adults, to pet the animals. And then proceeded to scrub our hands. That was an experience since you have to pump the water at the same time. Wicked cool.

After that we just battled the crowds in the state buildings, where I had my first beer at 11:30 in the morning and then wandered around the rest of the fair. The watermelon ale was my favorite part. Or maybe it was the electronic animals in a trailer. I'm not quite sure, but overall my most recent experience at the Big E was a pretty redneck one.

Now the next fair was the Deerfield Fair in Deerfield, New Hampshire. This is only a 4 day fair, complete with a horse show and the World Championship Ox Pulling. This fair has some amazing food. It's not just all gross, greasy, fried food. It actually has some good wraps and a lot of local fruits and vegetables. The apple crisp is AMAZING, and I don't even like apple crisp. The fairgrounds in Deerfield are pretty small, maybe like a quarter of the size of the Big E, so it's pretty much like trying to walk around in sardine can. Imagine that one.

Looking at the two fairs, I love the small town fair feel of the Deerfield Fair. It's not nearly as commercialized as the Big E and definitely one to check out next year. Even if you live in Western Mass, take the drive and go see it. It's a blast.

What does WSC want to know about?



Erin E. Ethier

Psychology Columnist

As I was trying to think of something to write in this week's psychology column, I found myself wondering what everyone else would like to read about. I can tell you all about certain psychological disorders, treatments or statistical information, but what I really want to know is what the students at WSC want to know more about.

Many parts of our lives are influenced by psychology whether you're a psychology major or not. Our behaviors, as minute as chewing gum, can tell us a lot about human nature. Our words, facial expressions and even our silence are all part of psychology in some way.

I could choose topics to write about; however, it might be more interesting to get an objective point of view since you are the ones reading the paper! If there is a topic that interests you, please e-mail The Voice (thevoice@wsc.ma.edu) and look for your topic in an upcoming issue!

Lost and Found service at the library

Thumb drives, notebooks, calculators, etc have been found

As the weather gets colder, we have gloves, hats and even coats

Check at the circulation desk for lost possessions

Children In Slavery-The 21st Century

Investigative Journalist Christine Dolan, covers slavery and its rippling economic effects worldwide...

October 15, 2007 3:30 PM

Scanlon Banquet Hall A & B

Ever hear a wolf howl in the wild? If so, you're lucky.



Kristi Mientka

Voice Columnist

The gray wolf species (canis lupus) has been virtually extinct from the continental United States since the early 1900s.

European settlers and pioneers, fearing competition for deer and elk (and probably believing fairy tales like "Little Red Riding Hood") slaughtered thousands of wolves across the country.

Over the past 25 years or so, biologists with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and other organizations have been making an effor to reintreduce wolves to the lower 48. Some of their efforts have been successful—sizable wolf populations have taken root in northern Minnesota and Yellowstone National Park, among other places.

The wolves' presence has created a much more stable ecosystem in these places. In fact, the U.K. is considering a plan to reintroduce wolves to Scotland, and officials there are looking to the U.S. as a model. Juliette Jowit of the Observer cites the thriving of several species of deer, as well as the improvement of vegetation, as successes for the Yellowstone program.

But these efforts may all soon be jeopardized. The National Resources Defense Council recently announced that it wants to allow for the aerial hunting of wolves in Idaho and Wyoming in order to help the state's elk population.

This would be a deadly mistake. The reintroduction of wolves has been largely successful in restoring the delicate balance of the wild—why start killing them off? It might leave more elk for people to hunt, but at what cost?

The environment is already suffering as it is. Every day we're pouring tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. We're dumping toxic chemicals into rivers. And the current administration has dealt some heavy blows to the Endangered Species Act.

Americans live in fear. We live in fear of terrorist strikes. We live in fear of our homes being broken into. We live in fear of car accidents, of identity theft, of epidemics. So it's not surprising that we're afraid of predatory animals.

We're often afraid of what we don't understand, and wolves are among those things. They're mysterious creatures, with a lot of negative stereotypes surrounding them. But they're not all the Big Bad Wolf. Wolves are actually highly social, intelligent and gentle animals.

If we took a little time to educate ourselves about these and other animals, we'd learn that they are not to be feared—and that they are actually necessary to the well-being of our environment.

Lifting the ban on wolf hunting, however initially small the step, would snowball into much larger changes down the road. Do we really want to reverse the progress we've made toward a more stable ecosystem? Or are we condemned to repeat the past?

Progress, indeed.

Why YouTube will change the world

Mike Coughlin

Photography Editor

WAR WITH IRAN, TERRORISM IN SOUTHWEST U.S., U.S. GOVERNMENT and THE NORTH AMERICAN UNION.

IT'S FINE, AS LONG AS WE HAVE OUR MTV.

Bored this week? Check out these three links.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuBo4E77ZXo

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAM5S4lhMGw

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83JwtNDK2QY&inode=related&search=

What did you think? The BUSH administration AND U.S. CONGRESS has labeled IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD A TERRORIST ORGINAZATION. I will not be surprised if we bomb/invade Iran before the presidency of BUSH is over. Those of you who watch more MTV than read or listen to news-- the President of IRAN was in the U.S. for a meeting with the U.N. about their nuclear program and a debate at Columbia University. From his words at the U.N. and Columbia were words of peace, not war. The BUSH administration can't see this. If one of your enemies was in your country wouldn't you want to speak with him to see eye to eye on issues, in the name of peace?

But BUSH did not talk with the IRANIAN president, and in my eyes BUSH is a #$%@$#. That is another story. The North American Union is to combine the U.S., Canada and Mexico for economical and "security" purposes.

I'm not big into conspiracy thories but you need to go to YouTube and watch those videos again and make a judgment for yourself. Then, get off your couch, turn off MTV and do something about it.

Celebrities v. Sara Charbonneau



Sara Charbonneau

Voice Columnist

Soooo I'm sitting here at work doing a whole lotta nothing (don't tell my boss!), and I've decided to write another article to send in for this week's Voice since I'm an ass and didn't send in my article until it was too late last week – to my good friend the Editor-in-Chief, Miss Molly, umm.. my bad. And I've decided to write about everyone's favorite topic – CELEBRITIES!

Yeah, the caps weren't necessary, but with celebs, I needed to make sure you people were with me. I guess I'll start at the top of the celeb list and work my way down – because clearly when you're a celebrity, the only way to go is down in flames. Anyway, I digress. Numero uno on the list - Britney.

Did anyone hear on "The Hills" a few weeks ago when Lo was falling over drunk, skirt flying up in the air, Lauren's phrase "I just saw Lo's Britney."? Because frankly, it was classic and I pretty much died laughing. And then gagged myself with the thought of Britney Spears and her neurotic escapades these last few months which have recently led to her actually losing custody of her children. I mean come ON. This woman – and don't you dare call her a child because she's like what, 25 now?? - has more money than God, more people that could help her than anyone on the planet, and yet she chooses THIS life?? Shaving her head, hit and run accidents in parking lots (videotaped I might add, which shows her checking out her own Mercedes and completely ignoring the huge scratch she put on another car) and nailing a car with an umbrella (which was NOT for a script she was reading. Liar). She's completely out of control!! I'm not a huge fan of K-Fed, but at least he's stepping up to the plate and noticing that maybe his kids need some sort of stability since Mommy went nuts. Rehab Brit, it's a good thing. And none of this Promises Rehab crap – get away from Cali – come to the East Coast, get all the booze and meth or coke or whatever you do out of your system, and then figure out the line between Britney Land and reality. OK thanks.

THEN there's Nicole Richie. Oh. My. God. I feel so bad for that baby she's trying to carry. Seriously, it looks like when you were eight and put a balloon up your shirt to pretend you were pregnant – you girls out there, you know you did that! EAT SOMETHING. Your baby will not survive on gum, water and cocaine. She's really a sad excuse for a human being. And driving the WRONG WAY ON AN INTERSTATE WHILE HIGH AND DRUNK?? Unbelievable. And all she got was a slap on the wrist and four days – excuse me, 82 minutes – in prison. I can't even try to justify that. Really.

Lindsay Lohan lied approximately 7,345,445,877 times about not being an alcoholic and "those drugs were planted in my pocket." And somehow managed to get one – yes, ONE – day in jail, some community service and a few fines. She has also spent the better part of 2007 in posh rehab facilities which turned out to do absolutely NOTHING. At this point, why even call it rehab? It's a vacation home. Hopefully being away from L.A. will help her now, because I doubt she'll ever get any sort of good film roles being the loser she is. I miss the old LiLo… you remember, back when she was pretending to be a twin in the new version of the Parent Trap… Oh, the good ole' days.

Then there's Paris. Did anyone else see the Letterman when he basically yelled at her? It was priceless. Try to find it on YouTube if you haven't already, it's hysterical. I mean yeah, at least she did her time and blah, blah, blah, but it certainly put her in her place. Your last name might be Hilton, but my last name is Charbonneau and I've never been to jail sooo… yeah.

All in all, celebs are making me gag pretty much every time I turn on the TV or try to satisfy my thirst for stupid people while reading Entertainment Weekly. And deep down, I secretly love it.

Ew. No, I really don't.

REMINDER

Tuesday Oct. 9, 2007 follows a TUESDAY schedule

A fine solution

Tatyana Pyshnyak
Voice Columnist

I believe I have encountered the solution for expanding the Commuter Lot limits. Olga Pyshnyak, WSC alumnus, mentioned a great idea to me. Her suggestion is to have an additional parking area built above the already existing commuter parking lot. I strongly agree for the following reasons:

1. Building a multi-layer parking lot will solve the current Commuter Lot problem and make college a more memorable experience for the commuting students.

2. Parking space will be increased without requiring additional land.

3. It will probably cost a lot less to build layers than to fill in the crater behind Ely.

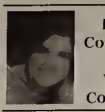
4. WSC is a respectable college, and it looks silly that a problem such as this continues to exist.

5. WSC will probably be among the first to incorporate such an economizing idea.

6. Not only will the college look up-to-date and modern with commercial-like parking, but it will also attract more students. Hasn't that always been the idea?

7. Do there need to be any more reasons?

Shouldn't bravery get more attention than celebrity gossip?



Kayla Cournoyer
Voice Columnist

I would like to take a break from giving freshman some advice for a while. I have two reasons for doing so; I am temporarily out of ideas and other things have struck my opinion.

The latter of those being the purpose for this rant. I was flipping through channels on Monday night to find a story about Britney Spears losing custody of her children. Now, normally I would laugh to myself and keep flipping but something about this caught my eye.

The story about this obviously unfit celebrity mother was the top story and also breaking news of one of America's 24-hours news stations. Now honestly, is that really necessary?

I would like to know how come many of us know something about her one night Vegas marriage and how unfit she is with her children, but when it comes to important or commendable things, we have to search every last bit of our brains for something that didn't come from a teacher.

Take a second to think about all the facts you know about celebrities; how many times their stupidity makes breaking news and they are loved even more for it. Now think about the last time you heard about an average Jane losing her children on a national news station – it just doesn't happen.

I heard on the radio about a man who donated an amount of money somewhat greater that $9,000 to leukemia research and, in turn, won a campaign so that his eight-year-old son can be in Will Farrell's newest movie. Now I think that this is pretty commendable, but it wasn't a big story.

My point is that there are a lot of everyday people who do wonderful things. However, America doesn't want to hear about that. They want to know about what the new celebrity fad is and who's checking herself into rehab.

Now, if I was to sit here and tell you all that I have been in rehab three times for drug addictions you would all think I was nuts and certainly not like me more for it. (That is not a fact about me, by the way.) But there are celebrities out there who really do that and every time America truly believes that they will clean up.

I know that I am not the only person who has friends overseas fighting for our country. I also know that they are doing so, not expecting anything in return. Be that as it may, shouldn't their brave feats get a little more attention than celebrity knock-ups?

Maybe I am right here, but I could be wrong too. It's up to you what you want to think. I am sorry if I offended any hardcore celebrity fans, but I have to ask you all this: For every celebrity "Oops" that you know of that makes you like them more, can you think of one commendable thing an average person did that didn't get any coverage at all? I just don't get why all news has to be the bad news.

Dangerous Darfur

Los Angeles Times

Imagine a Los Angeles police station overrun by a heavily armed and well-organized street gang, and the besieged officers finally being rescued not by their fellow police but by a more powerful gang of thugs. This, in essence, is what happened in the troubled Darfur region of Sudan over the weekend.

The 7,000 African Union troops in Darfur are supposed to be a buffer between civilians and the various armed forces -- government soldiers, militias and rebel groups -- that have burned villages, committed mass rape and killed hundreds of thousands of people. On Saturday, at least 10 peacekeepers were killed in an attack on their camp in the central Darfur town of Haskanita by an unidentified group of militants. It was the deadliest strike on peacekeepers since they arrived in 2004, and more might have died had a contingent of Sudanese soldiers not arrived Sunday morning to run the militants off.

The violence couldn't have come at a worse time. The outnumbered and undersupplied African Union force is due to be replaced early next year by a 26,000-man United Nations mission. Raising troops for the U.N. force has been a challenge, though, and the rising danger level is likely to make it harder. On Monday, the president of Senegal, home of five Darfur peacekeepers who were slain in April, threatened to pull his troops out. Nigeria, another major supplier of peacekeepers for Africa, also seems to be rethinking its role.

The violence in Darfur is escalating in the run-up to a peace summit Oct. 27 between the Sudanese government and various rebel groups. All sides are hoping to consolidate their gains to increase their clout at the bargaining table; the militants in this weekend's attack may have been a rebel faction eager to steal weapons, ammunition and vehicles from the peacekeepers.

Meanwhile, as the fighting escalates, so does an environmental crisis that could cause more death and misery than all the combatants combined. Refugee camps are running out of water, and climate changes are turning an already drought-prone region into a desert. With trees vanishing and arable land left fallow because of the fighting, the ongoing humanitarian crisis is poised to enter an even deadlier phase.

The U.N. force might bring greater security, but that won't be enough to stave off a brutal famine. The international community must be ready to provide far more help after the blue helmets have arrived.

The Ahmadinejad show

Los Angeles Times

He came, he spoke, he flopped.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speeches at Columbia University and the United Nations this week were as outrageous and as disturbing as ever. The attention his Columbia speech received, however, proved the university correct in its decision (which this page supported) to invite the Iranian leader to have his say. Unfortunately, his host failed to understand that it is far more useful to listen to one's enemies than to insult them. And the jibes were hardly necessary. By allowing Ahmadinejad to elaborate on his ludicrous views on homosexuality, his shifting equivocations about the Holocaust, his aspiration to lead a new nonaligned bloc united in anti-American animus and his messianic religious views, the university and the United Nations did the world a service by helping us understand -- insofar as the rambling and bewildering remarks could be understood -- the true nature of the Iranian regime.

And what did Ahmadinejad get from the visit? A world-class collection of epithets: "cruel dictator," "astonishingly uneducated," "evil weasel" and "fruitbat," just for starters. That was all viscerally satisfying, but it may be having just the result that Ahmadinejad had hoped for -- shoring up support among those Iranian nationalists who find in the foreign derision of their president vindication of their anti-Western views. At least that's the spin in the state-controlled Iranian media, suggesting that Ahmadinejad believes he benefits from Yankee hostility.

Of course, though he glibly denied it, Ahmadinejad has been cracking down on the independent media. Reporters Without Borders says 73 journalists have been arrested and 20 news organizations have been censored in the last year alone. So it is unclear whether ordinary Iranians might question whether their not-so-freely elected president is an international embarrassment -- or a menace to their own national interests.

But as the ruckus recedes, the question remains: How much does Ahmadinejad matter? The answer depends on just one thing: To what extent are his views shared by the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who really calls the shots in Iran? Ahmadinejad is reported to enjoy the supreme leader's full support. Certainly Khamenei is as rhetorically anti-American and mistrustful of Western intentions as his protege. Yet some see signs -- in Iran's dealings with the International Atomic Energy Agency and in the recent release of four Iranian Americans held in Tehran, among other moves -- that the quiet Khamenei may be less eager than the flamboyant Ahmadinejad to provoke a confrontation with the West.

Nearly 30 years after its revolution, Iran remains ideologically inimical to the United States. That makes it all the more vital that other world powers, notably Iran's accommodating trading partners -- China, Russia, Germany -- as well as its nervous neighbors be willing through peaceful economic means to raise the costs to Khamenei of continuing Iran's nuclear defiance.

a mix of MAgic Last Night

THE PAST; A MERCILESS DEFEAT
THAT LEAVES THE NOTES STREWN DOWN THE STREET,
THAT HIDES OUR HIGHS IN BASEMENT CELLS,
BLINDED FROM THE ONES WHO FELL
ON NARROW LINES OR WARNING SIGNS
THAT ONLY GOD COULD SPELL.

THE PAST; ONE STEP BEHIND
A FUCKED UP MIND AND JUG OF WINE,
A CLOGGED UP NOSE AND TWISTED SPINE
A NIGHT WHERE I FINALLY SKIPPED THE LINE.

THE PAST; EJECTED FROM MY SOUL
THOUGH STORY BE TOLD
IT WILL ONLY GROW OLD
AND COULD NEVER BE SOLD.

©MICHELLE AHERN

Between the Buried and Me: "Colors"

CHRIS DONDOROS
A & E EDITOR

Here's one for the metal kids.

Between the Buried and Me (known simply as BTBAM to their fans) has consistently been making some of the most thought-provoking and unpredictable metal over the course of the last few years. Previous efforts such as "The Silent Circus" and "Alaska", with their abrupt timing changes, key changes, intricate song structures and undeniable musicianship have quickly established them as a thinking-man's metalcore band.

Their newest release, "Colors" doesn't disappoint on any of those levels, juxtaposing passages of beautiful, mellow music (reminiscent of classic Queen or Pink Floyd) with some of the most extreme, heavy and creative metal music imaginable. But one question remains:

Is it too ambitious?

Listeners, be warned – this is a concept album. Some bands are able to pull this off without a hitch (Pink Floyd made a career out of it), but for every Wall or Dark Side of the Moon there's twice as many overly pretentious, downright lame "prog" albums that are simply laughable. As a whole, "Colors" can be looked at as one long track, carrying a number of different lyrical and musical motifs from one track to another. It's admittedly difficult to listen to in one sitting especially with a number of the tracks eclipsing the 10-minute mark.



Photo courtesy of www.trisiapunk.com

Minus the opener, individual tracks simply don't stand out to the listener as it's all part of a whole.

Obviously, a band such as Between the Buried and Me caters to a very specific audience and this album isn't for everybody; not by any means. It's a deliberate and ambitious effort by an equally ambitious band but BTBAM won't be winning over any new fans with this one.

3.5 / 5 - Only recommended to hardcore fans.

"Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, 'Where have I gone wrong?' Then a voice says to me, 'This is going to take more than one night.' "

Charlie Brown

PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

There is a darkness in Burma. A repressive government exists, ruled by the military.

Last week there were images of protest as individuals rose up calling for change. Among those standing in protest were Buddhist monks. This week Burma is shrouded in silence and the monks are missing.

The Buddhist monks of Burma are very simply garbed. They are pacifists. They are non-confrontative. They spend most of their waking lives in meditation. In order to get enough to eat, they venture out with bowls which are often referred to as "begging bowls." Into these bowls individuals place food or other small coin for the monks to eat. The bowl is carried so that givers can easily place their gifts.

In a quite uncharacteristic manner, the monks joined in the protest against the government.

While the monks had chosen to protest, they did not give up their Buddhist ways.

They did something very simply that communicated throughout the countryside their dissatisfaction with the military. They ventured forth from their monasteries with their bowls upside down and refused to accept any offerings from the military. On the one hand this communicated to the military that their gifts were unacceptable. On the other hand, it communicated to all that the monks were prepared to go on a hunger strike as an act of protest.

A simple act, yet it fueled rallies, and alarmed the military. The military did something they had never previously done, and they moved in on the monasteries taking them over.

That act caused international outrage and continues to cause international outrage.

What has happened to the monks? Will the military succeed in quelling this uprising? Will the effort of the monks go for naught? Good questions and one hopes that in time good answers will arise. For now, the questions hang, unanswered.

As a person of faith, I believe that Christ is with those monks. Furthermore, I am filled with admiration for those who have the courage to challenge individuals holding guns with upside down bowls and the power of their conviction.

I am reminded that people of faith can face evil with faith and do not have to lower their standards.

Respect and admiration are not enough.

I fall on my knees and lift up the monks of Burma to God and ask that God's enfolding spirit may protect them. I praise God for their courage to face fear with prayer and a bowl and ask God to bless their acts.

I know that I pray as a Christian, and they as Buddhists; but are we not all God's children?

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. I also maintain office hours most mornings at the church between the two campuses. You are welcome to join me in worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

Traveling 'Across The Universe' takes even longer than you think

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: B-

"Across The Universe" is a dazzling, mesmerizing, engrossing, ambitious film that tells its story through distinct visuals and the songs of the Beatles... for an hour. Then it becomes a mind-numbing, patience-testing exercise in cramming as many songs as possible whether they have anything to contribute to the story or not. With chapter selection this musical could be a masterpiece. As it is, I spent the first half of the film on the edge of my seat, eyes glued to the screen. The second half? On the edge of my seat, eyeing the exit.

Let me state for the record that I am not a Beatles aficionado. I do not listen to their music regularly and, to be honest, I did not recognize half the songs used in this film. However, that allowed me to take the film for what it was and not nitpick about the arrangements of the songs. I never cried 'blasphemy' over how they modified a beloved song, as I'm sure many Beatles purists would. But even with that advantage, the film under whelmed me from the midpoint on.

The film begins by introducing us to Jude. Jude is a college-aged shipyard worker in Liverpool who decides to travel abroad to the United States. Upon his arrival he meets a Princeton student named Max, and Jude also befriends Max's sister Lucy. The story takes off from there. It involves Jude and Max moving to New York and living with a singer, as well as their involvement with the war in Vietnam.

Besides some stints of dialogue, the entire story is moved forward through the lyrics of songs written by the Beatles. The songs are brought to life by fresh performances and fascinating visuals. When a song is used to move the story forward or to emphasize a character's current emotion, the film is at its best. A perfect example would be its heart-wrenching rendition of 'Let It Be.' When that song concluded, I said to myself, "Wow. This really works. They are on to something here."



Photo courtesy of www.postergeek.com

Unfortunately, that positivity did not last long. About an hour into the film I noticed songs were being added for no apparent reason besides that the Beatles wrote them and this is the only chance the filmmakers have to use them. Beatles fanatics will probably take no issue with this, but as a film audience member, I did. I felt my time being wasted when, for three minutes straight, we slowly zoomed out from a group of characters laying in a grassy field singing a song that has no impact on the story and no value to add to the viewing experience.

Minus the 45 minutes of filler songs, the film was breathtaking. It has a unique visual flair that really must be seen to be believed. The use of color, of costumes, of computer graphics; all of it is truly striking. However, there were a few times when I could not help but feel that the idea behind the visual must have been thought of before it had a place in the film.

Even though some songs and visuals seem forced and the film most assuredly overstays its welcome by 40 minutes, it is still a treat to watch. It is different than anything else in theaters and has a lot to offer, whether you are a Beatle-maniac or not.

BOTTOM LINE: Although too long and anti-climatic, this Beatles musical is still ambitious, visually stunning and worth your attention (if you have a chance to see it given its limited release.)

Editor's Desk



Rule #1 Don't go swimming in the Westfield River when you have a cut. I learned this a few weekends back. Of course, I didn't think of it at the time. When we got to the rock in Russell, I immediately cut and ripped my toe open. I didn't worry about it and proceeded to wade through the river. I didn't actually go swimming since I had just gotten a tattoo. But I fell in anyways.

Everyone goes swimming at the rock. I've never heard of anyone getting a bacterial infection from the water. Well, apparently I managed to and the bacteria entered through the cut on my toe. So now I'm battling an infection that has spread throughout my system. All because I went swimming in the river. Gross, huh?

So make sure you don't have a cut next time you go swimming...

Eryn Carter
Managing Editor
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Box Office Hits Weekend of 9/29

1. The Game Plan
2. The Kingdom
3. Resident Evil: Extinction
4. Good Luck Chuck
5. 3:10 to Yuma
6. The Brave One
7. Mr. Woodcock
8. Eastern Promises
9. Sydney White
10. Across the Universe

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

African Americans in prison

MICHAEL DOBBS
THE WASHINGTON POST

"The idea that we can keep incarcerating and keep incarcerating — pretty soon we're not going to have a young African-American male population in America. They're all going to be in prison or dead. One of the two."
— John Edwards, MTV dialogue, Sept. 27, 2007

"We have more work to do when more young black men languish in prison than attend colleges and universities across America."
— Barack Obama, NAACP forum, July 12, 2007

THE FACTS

Where do they get this stuff? Both candidates are way off the mark.

"It's not true," Paige Harrison, a statistician at the Bureau of Justice Statistics, said with an audible gasp when the Obama statement was read to her. She dismissed the Edwards claim as a wild exaggeration with no factual foundation, while acknowledging that incarceration rates among young black males are several times as high as those for whites or Hispanics.

To deal with the Obama claim first, this is an old myth that has been frequently shot down before, most recently by Washington Post reporter DeNeen Brown.

According to 2005 Census Bureau statistics, the male African-American population of the United States between ages 18 and 24 was 1,896,000. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 106,000 African-Americans in this age group were in federal or state prisons at the end of 2005. If you add the numbers in local jails (measured in mid-2006), you arrive at a total of 193,000 incarcerated young black males.

According to the same census data, 530,000 African-American males, or 28 percent, were enrolled in colleges or universities (including two-year colleges) in 2005. That is five times the number of young black men in federal and state prisons and 2 1/2 times the total number incarcerated.

It is indisputable that incarceration rates among young black males are much higher than among whites or Hispanics.

An August 2003 Bureau of Justice Statistics analysis shows that 32 percent of black males born in 2001 can expect to spend time in prison. That is up from 13.4 percent in 1974. By contrast, 17.2 percent of Hispanics and 5.9 percent of whites born in 2001 are likely to end up in prison.

The trend lines are shocking, but not nearly as pronounced as Edwards stated. Let's stipulate from the outset that he was exaggerating to make a point. He wanted to emphasize the fact that many young African-American men are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty, violence and crime.

The problem, however, is that Edwards made no effort to define his terms. He said that the "young African-American male population" is threatened with extinction. It is hardly the first time he has made such wild generalizations. In a March 2006 speech, Edwards made the following, equally broad and equally erroneous, statement: "Young African-American men see their options as going to prison or dying. As a result, they don't invest in their education, they don't invest in their futures and when they father children, they don't support them."

If another former North Carolina senator, Jesse Helms, had said something like that, he would never have been allowed to forget it. As for violent deaths, we asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a list of the 10 leading causes of death by black males, ages 18 to 24, in 2004. The top three causes of death in this age group were: (1) homicide, 2,140 deaths; (2) unintentional injury, 948 deaths; and (3) suicide, 332 deaths. AIDS ranked sixth, with 67 deaths. If we add the homicide, suicide and AIDS deaths together, we get 2,539 deaths. That is a combined death rate from violent causes or AIDS of around 0.13 per cent for this segment of the population. Hardly an epidemic.

Edwards campaign spokesman Eric Schultz offered the following response:

"John Edwards was making the point that this president refuses to accept that the odds of young African-American males either dying or being incarcerated is terribly high. Studies show that one in three black men can expect to go to jail in their lifetimes. Unlike George Bush, who just wants to stick his head in the sand, as president, Edwards will address the issue head-on so that all Americans — whether African-American or not — can live a better life and the American dream."

The Obama campaign did not respond to e-mail queries.

Both Obama and Edwards are right to point to the incarceration rate for young African-American males as a national cause for alarm. But it is ridiculous to argue that "all" young African-Americans — Edwards' word — will soon be "in prison or dead" or that more young black males are in prison than in college. The true data are alarming enough without resorting to hyperbole.

Suicide bomber kills 11 in Afghan capital

JOHN WARD ANDERSON
THE WASHINGTON POST

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attacker laden with explosives blew himself up near a police commuter bus in downtown Kabul early Tuesday, killing at least 11 people, including three children, Afghan security officials said.

It was the second suicide attack on a bus in the capital in four days. There were conflicting reports about how the incident occurred. Some witnesses said the bomber made it aboard the bus, but Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary said the man, who was dressed in civilian clothes, was spotted before getting on and was shot just outside the vehicle's door.

"The bomber wanted to get into the bus, but a brave, courageous officer in the front seat spotted him and told him to stop, and when he didn't obey, the officer shot him," Bashary said.

The bomber stumbled back from the door, he said, and detonated himself a short distance away, demolishing the front of the bus. Bashary said the officer who fired the shot was killed in the explosion.

A second Interior Ministry official offered a slightly different version of events, saying the officer ordered the bomber to stop and was pulling his service revolver to shoot when the bomber detonated his explosives at the door. Witnesses told the Associated Press that several people at the bus stop suspected the man might be a suicide bomber because he let one bus go by without boarding it.

The attack followed a similar incident in Kabul on Saturday in which a suicide bomber dressed in military uniform detonated his explosives inside a bus full of Afghan National Army soldiers, killing at least 30 people and injuring 29 in one of the deadliest suicide attacks since the U.S. invasion almost six years ago.

"These violent acts destroy innocent lives," British Maj Gen. Garry Robison the acting NATO commander in Afghanistan, said in a statement. "But they will not deter us in our commitment to create a better Afghanistan. The insurgents offer nothing but violence and death."

"This is really disgusting ... killing a Muslim brother in the holy month of Ramadan is against Islam and all sharia law," said Bashary.

Tuesday's blast occurred about 7:15 a.m. in the Qamber neighborhood of southern Kabul and targeted an Interior Ministry bus ferrying police officers to their jobs, Bashary said. Six of the dead were police officers and the rest were civilians, including a woman and three children, he said.

Reuters news agency reported that the Taliban, an Islamic extremist group, asserted responsibility for the attack. Afghan security forces have become a favored target of insurgents, because they typically are not as well armed or protected as foreign soldiers operating in Afghanistan, according to a recent United Nation's report on suicide bombings.

The study found the number of suicide bombings in Afghanistan has climbed from three in 2004 to more than 100 this year and last. A report to the U.N. Security Council about two weeks ago said that insurgent and terror-related violence in Afghanistan increased 29 percent this year over last, with an average of 548 incidents per month this year compared to 425 incidents per month in 2006.

"An intensifying Taliban-led insurgency that increasingly relies on suicide bombing and other terrorist tactics is undermining confidence in the future and denying access of the

Government and international aid organizations to a growing number of districts," the report said. "Progress, at this key moment, will depend on the international community and the Government of Afghanistan better coordinating their efforts to defeat the insurgency, promote good governance and provide tangible improvements to the lives of Afghans."

`Fatter and dumber'?

MICHAEL DOBBS
THE WASHINGTON POST

There is little doubt that Americans are getting fatter. According to data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the incidence of obesity among adults increased from 15 percent in 1980 to nearly 33 percent in 2004. The "stupider" part is much more controversial. Average SAT scores have declined a little over the past two years. But Wayne Camara, vice president of research at the College Board, which administers the SAT, said the test is not a good indicator of the intelligence (or stupidity) of the overall population. Less than 50 percent of high school graduates take the test. The main reason why SAT scores have been declining is that more students are now taking the test, and the test-taking population is getting more diverse. Over the past two decades, math scores have gone up steadily; reading scores have remained flat.

A better guide for the educational skills of the overall student population is the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which bills itself as the "Nation's Report Card" and looks at all students, not just a self-selected sample. According to the NAEP, the math skills of American 9-year-olds have been rising steadily since 1982 and reached an all-time high in 2004.

Conclusion: Gravel and Maher are right about obesity but wrong about stupidity.

Sigma Tau Delta Leaf Raking



Once again the tedious chore of raking your lawn comes around. But it doesn't have to be that way! Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) wants to help you out!

The members of Sigma Tau Delta will rake your lawn for you as part of a fundraiser to attend our annual convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Prices are negotiated based on lawn size.

If you live in Westfield or the surrounding area,
Email Zach Bartlett at zbartlett3959@wsc.ma.edu or call Glen Brewster at ext. 5332
And leave your name, address, and phone number where you can be reached.

The Fact Checker: Same-Sex marriage

MICHAEL DOBBS
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE CLAIM

"In countries that have redefined marriage, where they've said, 'OK, it's not just a man and a woman, it can be two men, two women,' the marriage rates in those countries have plummeted to where you have counties now in northern Europe where 80 percent of the firstborn children are born out of wedlock. ... And currently in this country — currently — we're at 36 percent of our children born out of wedlock."

— Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., Republican TV debate, Sept. 5

THE FACTS

Brownback posits a strong correlation between the introduction of civil unions and same-sex marriage and the increase in the number of children being born out of wedlock. His argument appears to rely on two premises: 1) that the marriage rate has plummeted in countries that have "redefined" marriage and 2) that the declining marriage rate has in turn resulted in a dramatic rise in the number of babies born to unmarried parents.

Both parts of Brownback's claim are questionable. The decline in marriage rates and the increase in the number of children born out of wedlock long precede attempts to "redefine" marriage by permitting civil unions and same-sex marriage. Domestic partnerships or civil unions were introduced in Hawaii in 1997, Vermont and California in 2000, Maine in 2004, Connecticut in 2005, New Jersey in 2006 and Washington state this year. Only one state permits same-sex marriage: Massachusetts, since 2004.

Marriage rates in the United States have been falling steadily since at least 1960, according to the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University. They have not dropped appreciably faster in the past decade than during the preceding four decades.

Marriage Rates, 1960-2006
1960: 69.3
1970: 66.7
1980: 63.2
1990: 60.7
2000: 57.9
2006: 56.3

According to the latest data from the National Center for Health Statistics, 36.8 percent of children born in the United States in 2005 were born out of wedlock. (The senator is correct on that detail.) In 1960, the percentage was about 5 and by 1990 it had increased to about 28 percent.

As support for Brownback's statement, his campaign cited articles in the National Review by Stanley Kurtz, an adjunct fellow at the Hoover Institution, on marriage rates in northern Europe, particularly the Netherlands. Kurtz has also cited counties in northern Norway where 80 percent of firstborn children are born out of wedlock. Although it is true that there has been a sharp rise in out-of-wedlock births in the Netherlands since domestic partnerships were introduced in 1997, there has been no appreciable increase in several other countries, such as Sweden and Denmark, that changed their marriage laws at the same time. In general, the rise in out-of-wedlock births in Europe predates changes in marriage legislation, according to the European Commission.

Stephanie Ventura, chief of the reproductive statistics branch at the National Center for Health Statistics, said she is unaware of any provable correlation between changes to marriage laws and the rise in out-of-wedlock birthrates in the United States. She said the recent increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women was caused in large part by the declining birth rate among married women.

Conclusion: We are prepared to be persuaded otherwise if more experts weigh in, but for the moment we can see no factual basis for Brownback's assertion of a connection between same-sex marriage and out-of-wedlock births.



Photos by Karen Evans & Hugh Mailly







Photos by Hugh Mailly, Karen Evans & Eryn Carter



Send us your own pictures from around campus!

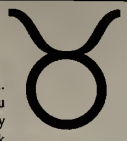
E-mail them to us at:
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Aries (March 21-April 19)



O'kay. Let's not pull any punches here. Let's be brutally honest. Whitney Houston is an Aries. Chaka Khan is an Aries. Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Celine Dion and Rosie O'Donnell all share your sign. Why are you all such loud mouths? Really. You need to sit down and shut up. Have you ever thought that maybe your friends don't want your advice? Dammit! It must be all that Martian crap. Just relax. It's all good. Everything is A O'kay. So what if your peeps don't like who you're sleeping with. So what if your addictions interfere with your ability to function in society. Don't trip. It's all good. Get wasted at least twice this week on alcohol. Punch a hole in the bedroom wall. That should freak your roommate out right? Baaaammm! Just karate a hole into the wall right above their desk. Trust the stars. Mars. Be courageous.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



You need to chill. Possessioos don't make you who you are. Your lucky numbers 6 and 4 do. Think about it. There are probably countless scenarios threaded throughout your life in which the numbers 6 and 4 make themselves evident. Really. Think about it. No really. It's true. I mean, I'm actually surprised that your Venus-ruled ass hasn't realized this until now. It's obvious. Focus on those numbers and things will always be true to your astrological course. Seriously.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



It's time to start paying more attention to your health. You may have some problems lurking under the surface that you are unaware of or have just plain pushed out of your head. It's time to discover what's really going on with your body. Visit your physician. Do a complete examination. This examination might reveal evidence that eases your mind, but more than likely you have a serious problem that truly needs to be addressed. Stop avoiding it. It's not just going to go away because you don't pay it any attention. Whatever the case, things don't look good. Spend as much time with your loved ones as you can, because you really never know when your time here on earth could be spontaneously cut short. Life's crazy like that. With your level of health it's even crazier. Tell everyone you love them. Now's a good time to put your will in writing. Lose some weight to extend what time you do have and give yourself more energy. Sorry. It's in the stars.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



Your partner needs to be told what you're thinking. That's the only way they'll know what you're thinking. They're not psychic...are they? Well, are they? Think about it. If you want them to quit drinking or smoking just be like "Damnit! Do you need to smoke and get drunk all the freakin' time?! Huh?!" Honesty is the best policy. The same goes for the work place. This week is going to be especially hectic. So, don't take any kind of crap from anybody. Mow over anyone who can't seem to keep up, anyone who slows you down. Use your stapler as a weapon. Open it up and aim it at lazy co-workers, then click staples at them. For special people press it against tbe back of their necks and impale them with the sharp metal stationary tools. Bend paper clips into two pronged forks, then use rubber bands to catapult them across cubicles and into people's lines of vision. This is very important. It's in the stars for you to do this.

Leo (July 23-August 22)



The energy and gravity and stars and alignments and all point towards downtown. Elm street is what it's all about. You gotta be on Elm Street, around Elm Street, anywhere down by Elm Street. Your energy in the vicinity of Elm Street is so effing powerful. Just driving down Elm Street you're likely to meet someone or end up in some kind of lucky situation. If you actually get out of the car and walk up or down Elm Street your chances of iocreasing your luck and energy will be greatly multiplied. For some reason the later at night you do this the better as well. Show up on Elm Street in the middle of the night, 3:30 a.m. Bring sandwiches, soda and portable chairs. Pull up a seat. Kick it. Something good is going to happen. Something reai good. You are safe from all harm this week. You can come up quick and easy just by hangin' out on Elm Street. You are so lucky.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Most people don't think about the little things, the details, like you do. Most people just cruise through life consuming and urinating and eating and working and dancing and listening to various musicians and watching television and movies occasionally and dancing and playing and visiting family. But not you. You look at the deeper details, issues and workings of the world. That is why this week you will invent a new invention that could possibly revolutionize the world. Well, you'll at least have the idea for a new invention that could revolutionize the world. It's up to you whether or not you actually take that idea and do something with it. Get a patent. Build a prototype. Make schematics and blueprints. It's worth it. It is so worth it. You need to do this before your clarity on the topic fades.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)



What's the deal? Why you gotta spend all the money? Damn. Can't you just put a cap on the spending for God's sake? Can't you just stop shopping and buyiog stuff? What about saving money, huh? Whatever happened to that? Huh? If you continue on your present course things are gonna get bad for you. As in you'll be broke. Yeah. Laugh all you want, but money doesn't have to continue coming in. Nope. Sure doeso't. In fact, the stars have a little surprise in store for you in a just a few weeks, so you might want to start saving up. It would be unfortunate if you had to prostitute yourself out in the streets for a while wouldn't it? Yeah. It would. So chill. Relax. Save the dough.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)



You need to get out more. I mean desperately. Instead of tripping out over your main squeeze's extracurricular activities why not get out there and do some stuff of your own. Or why not meet some of your main squeeze's friends while you're at it. Get out there and party. Go to the local hip hop club and shake that ass of yours. Move it around a little bit. Work off some of that extra weight. Put your fingers up to your lips and pretend to be smoking. That way you'll look cool, like the rappers. Pray to the lord for courage whenever you go to the restroom, but don't tip the bathroom attendant. That'll only encourage them. Make sure to take all of the little attendant's snacks and chewing gum. Yeah. That'll give you extra astrological power.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



This week you will find the perfect opportunity to embezzle money from your company. Take advantage. You'll never get caught. Here's a genuine no risk way to get that bonus you've been asking the boss about for the past few weeks. He won't give it to you? Screw him. Take it. Follow the true American tradition of taking what you want when you want it. Be aggressive. Also there are a lot of your co-workers who like to smoke illegal substances. You could pick up some extra cash by selling it to them when you're on your 15 minute breaks. Use your company Xerox machine to print up some fliers like Dave Chappelle did in

Continued on Page 16

Continued from Page 15

"Half Baked", then staple sample baggies to each of the fliers. Pass them out to your co workers. Don't put your name or number on there though! Just your e-mail address. That way no one can pin it on you in the end. You know, if by chance you were to get caught. Some of your co-workers are more into the hardcore stuff. There's a guy in your neighborhood named Kevin who can give you the best deal on that stuff that you'll ever get. His number is 555-6843. Give him a ring. Before you know it you'll be serving all those people at the job. You'll be rollin in the dough, not only from paychecks, but embezzlement and drug trafficing.

Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 21)



Take advantage. Smash that whole section up right there. Play the wild cards and gravitate towards the celestial. Not the bestial. No. No more bestiality. That's some crazy stuff you don't need to mess with anymore. Your done. It's over. You went through that phase. Move on. But as far as being competitive, healthy, secure, gifted and infected: You're on your way. Ludacris is about to reference you in a freakin' radio hit. Watch. You'll be like damn. I read that weeks ago in the horoscopes and now here I am, being rhymed to in a Ludacris track! And then when the DJs scratch it to repeat your actual name over and over and over, it's over. This is your time to shine. Everyone's gonna know your name. Everyone who listens to Luda.

Aquarius
(Jan.22 - Feb. 18)



For the most part you have good ideas that amaze, startle and shock your co-workers and acquaintances. But sometimes you are just too high in the sky. Too caught up in your daydreams and fantasies. Too out of touch with reality and such, knowh'um sayin'? You need to take a look around. Focus. Be more realistic and just chill. This planet's been around for a few minutes and it's gonna stay around for quite a few minutes after you've left. Don't trip. It's the same crap that's been happening for thousands of years except now it's all digital. Come back to earth for a minute. Get in touch with the people. That's important for you now. Otherwise you risk getting so far out that no one will be able to connect with you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)



So, you thought no one knew? Huh? You thought no one would find out, huh? You sneaky little bugger. This isn't childhood curiosity where you read your father's "off-limits" magazines while mother's downstairs doing the dishes and singing hymns that we're talking about here. This is real serious stuff. Besides mother caught you back then. What makes you think "mother" won't catch you this time. Huh? Only the stakes are higher. The police? No... No... I won't say a tbing. What do you take me for? Some kind of rat? No. You know what you did. You know what's going to happen when they find you. It's only a matter of time. Sit tight. Don't let the bed bugs bite. Cover your ass. Stay dominant.

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The question that frequently arises is, "Do you really believe in astrology?" This is like being asked, "Do you really believe in geometry?" It can be depressingly difficult to explain to the uninformed critic that astrology is not a cult nor a religion, and that it requires neither faith nor belief. Astrology is a technique which may be used to obtain information. It is also a discipline of thought which develops the mind and provides insight into the mysteries of the universe. These same statements can be made about science in general.

Marcia Moore & Mark Douglas

The horoscope is a field of imagination and reflection not only through which we see ourselves, but by which we see through ourselves to the archetypal ground that has created this dance we call life.

Charles Ponce

Playoffs here we come!

Teresa Dollfus
Sports Writer

Now that the Red Sox have won the American League East they now need to focus on how to get through the Division Series. Their opponent for the Division Series is the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

The Red Sox have had success during the season against the Angels, winning the season series 6-4, but the playoffs are a completely different story. Each team brings their A-game and then some.

On a good note, the Red Sox have secured home field advantage throughout the playoffs. They will be able to have approximately 35,000 diehard Red Sox fans screaming behind them at Fenway Park for a majority of the playoffs. Every fan knows that the Sox play much better at home than on the road.

Even in Anaheim there will be a sizable amount of Red Sox fans because they travel. The Red Sox will have the support of Red Sox nation behind them even across the country.

The Red Sox start off at home on Wednesday, October 3 and Friday, October 5. They then move to Anaheim for game 3 held on Sunday, October 7. If necessary, game 4 will be held on Monday, October 8, and game 5 will be back at Fenway on Wednesday, October 10.

One thing that could prove to be a problem for the Red Sox is Eric Gagne. He hasn't been very consistent since he arrived in Boston. Gagne is still trying to find himself in another role besides closer.

The Angels could also face a problem this postseason, with two of their veterans, Vladimir Guerrero and Gary Matthews Jr., playing with injuries, their lineup features an abundance of young players with no postseason experience whatso-ever. That could be a downfall considering a majority of the Red Sox lineup has played in the postseason before.

Excluding Eric Gagne's unpredictability there is no reason why the Red Sox shouldn't be able to pull off winning the Division Series. Josh Beckett is looking sharp, with 20 wins during the regular season, and the rest of the pitching staff is pretty well rested. The offense has a powerful middle of the lineup with Ramirez, Ortiz, and Lowell, not to mention the speed that Lugo and Ellsbury possess.

This series will prove to be an interesting one at that. Both teams have good offenses and pitching. There are bound to be ups and downs in each game as well. Personally, I can't wait to watch the Angels face off against the Red Sox for a chance to go to the American League Championship Series.

Rams nip Owls in overtime, 2-1

WESTFIELD – Junior midfielder Michael Jones (Norwood) scored with 1:24 left in overtime to give Framingham State a 2-1 victory over Westfield State in Mass. State Conference action on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Framingham improved to 5-2-1 overall and 2-0 in the conference. Westfield drops to 3-6 and 0-2. The Owls also lost their conference opener in overtime, 2-1, to MCLA last weekend.

Framingham freshman reserve, Richie Greene, scored the game's first goal in the 80th minute. He received a pass from freshman, Jason Silva (Milford), and drilled a shot just inside the right post.

Westfield tied the score with 5:58 left in regulation. Sophomore, Josh Silvia (South Windsor, Conn.) crossed the ball in front of the net to senior forward, Nick Gumlaw (Agawam), who calmly settled the ball and scored from point blank range.

The Owls nearly scored a minute later when sophomore Ben Berthiaume headed a cross from inside the right post but Framingham goalie, Eddie Palomba, made one of his four saves.

With Gumlaw sidelined with a leg injury in the overtime stanza, Westfield sophomore, Tom McCarthy, had two solid scoring opportunities.

Scoring:
Framingham: Richie Greene (Jason Silva), 79:32
Westfield: Nick Gumlaw (Josh Silvia), 84:02
Framingham: Michael Jones (Rob Harvey), 98:36

Goalie Saves:
Westfield: Mark Tiffany 5 saves
Framingham: Eddie Palomba 4 saves

Shots: Westfield 9; Framingham 14
Corners: Westfield 3; Framingham 4

Westfield hosts Mass Maritime

The Westfield State football team looks to get back on the winning track when it hosts Mass. Maritime Academy on Saturday, Oct. 6, at 1:00 p.m.

The Owls have dropped three straight after defeating Western New England in the season opener. Westfield has losses to New England Conference powers Curry and Coast Guard, and a tough 21-14 setback last week at Maine Maritime.

Mass. Maritime is 2-3 with victories over MIT and Endicott. The Buccaneers have lost to King's Point, Worcester State and Coast Guard. They hosted Coast Guard last Saturday and were defeated by a surprising 3-0 score.

Westfield and Mass. Maritime have had highly competitive games throughout the years and it should be another interesting matchup this Saturday. The Bucs are the top-ranked defense in the 16-team New England Football Conference. They rank first in scoring defense (10.6), total defense (261.6) and pass efficiency defense, and second in rushing defense (112.6).

However, Mass Maritime ranks last in scoring offense with an average of only 13 points per game. Linebackers A.J. Flemmi, Kyle Audette and Brandon Payne lead the Bucs in tackles. Junior quarterback Joe DeFrank has completed 62 of 114 passes for 554 yards.

The Owls are led defensively by junior linebacker Jay Fielding, who leads the NEFC with 14.8 tackles per game. Fielding tied a school record with 23 tackles versus Maine Maritime. Senior defensive back Ricky Angus ranks first in passes defended with six pass breakups and an interception. Josh Mathieu has five breakups and an interception.

Westfield ranks third in the conference in passing offense but 14th in rushing. Junior quarterback Dan Cohen has completed 78 of 132 passes for 991 yards and seven touchdowns.

The Owls have the top two receivers in the NEFC. Senior Scott McIntyre has 42 catches in four games for a 10.5 average. He has 488 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore David Benoit has 28 catches for 471 yards and six touchdowns.

Freshman C.J. Franklin leads the NEFC in kickoff return average (25.9).

Bridgewater outscores Westfield, 4-3

WESTFIELD – Senior forwards, Katie Balboni (Townsend) and Ashley Panzini, (Saugus) both tallied two goals and an assist to lead Bridgewater State to a wild 4-3 field hockey conference victory over Westfield State on Tuesday evening, Oct. 3.

Bridgewater improved to 7-2 overall and 4-2 in the Little East Conference; Westfield is 5-5 and 2-4.

All of the scoring was done in the game's final 40 minutes. Balboni scored with 4:31 left in the first half off an assist to the far corner from Panzini.

Westfield tied the score early in the second half on an unassisted goal by senior, Megan Wolski (Plymouth, MA), the college's all-time leading scorer.

Panzini put the Bears back on top, 2-1, but Westfield sophomore, Kate Moss, (Auburn) tied the score, 2-2, with 19:40 remaining on a goal mouth scramble.

The Bears then struck for two quick goals by Balboni and Panzini in a four-minute span to take a 4-2 lead with 13 minutes remaining.

Westfield made it 4-3 when freshman, Alicia Gardner (Athol), scored off a penalty corner with 11:39 remaining.

But Bridgewater pulled out the key road victory as it thwarted several Westfield scoring attempts in the final minutes.

Scoring:
Bridgewater: Katie Balboni (Ashley Panzini), 30:29
Westfield: Megan Wolski, 37:10
Bridgewater: Ashley Panzini (Kelly Duchemin), 45:59
Westfield: Kate Moss, 50:20
Bridgewater: Katie Balboni (Bethany Bush), 52:08



photo courtesy of Mickey Curtis

Bridgewater: Ashley Panzini (Katie Balboni), 57:01
Westfield: Alicia Gardner (Megan Wolski, Vicky Winson), 58:21

Goalie Saves:
Westfield: Libby Bouley (20 minutes) 0 saves: Cat Hanks (50 minutes) 4 saves

Bridgewater: Nicole Downs 5 saves
Shots: Bridgewater 10 shots; Westfield 8 shots.
Penalty Corners: Bridgewater 5; Westfield 8

Homecoming Football Game
10/20/07
Homecoming football game vs.
Bridgewater State College
1:00 PM
Alumni Field

Westfield State College



Community Service Clearinghouse

Interested in community service? Here is where you go:
www.wsc.ma.edu/communityservice

Register on-line, have immediate access to all postings of on and off campus organizations looking for help from college students. For academic class requirements, First Year Experience Program, internships, service learning – **get it all here**.

New Posting:

Organization: Five Star Flight Academy
Location: Barnes Municipal Airport, Westfield
Contact: Stephen Hayden, 568-5800
dhlpilot@hotmail.com

Description: Update and maintain flight school web site. Can be done from home/college - **free** flight training available as compensation.

WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE WELLNESS CENTER
FALL 2007

Men's and Women's Aerobic Schedule
Monday, September 10 – Friday, December 7, 2007

All classes are FREE to Wellness Center Members

Sign-ups begin anytime after 7:00 a.m. at the Wellness Center Service Desk

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7a – 7:30 a **BOOT CAMP** (Peter)			7a – 7:30a **BOOT CAMP** (Peter)	
11:30a – 12:15p **BODY TONING** (Leah)		11:30a – 12:15p **BODY TONING** (Leah)		
11:30a – 12:15p **AQUA AEROBICS** (Morgan)		11:30a – 12:15p **AQUA AEROBICS** (Morgan)		
12:15p – 1p **PILATES** (Kimmy)		12:15 – 1:15p **YOGA** (Teresa)		12:15p – 1p **PILATES** (Kimmy)
4p – 5p **STEP** (Danielle)	4p – 4:45p **BODY TONING** (Ally)	4:30 – 5:15p **PILATES** (Kimmy)	4p – 5p **STEP** (Danielle)	
5:15p – 6p **BOOT CAMP** (Liz)	5p – 5:45p **BUTTS & GUTTS** (Liz)	5:30p – 6:15p **15/15/15** (Kimmy)	5:15p – 6p **WEIGHT TRAINING** (Liz)	
6:15p – 7:15p **CARDIO KICKBOXING** (Laura)			6:15p – 7:15p **CARDIO KICKBOXING** (Laura)	
7:30p – 8p **ABS** (Laura)	6:30p – 7:45p **YOGA** (Teresa)	6:30p – 8p **SALSA** (Otilia)	7:30p – 8p **ABS** (Laura)	

- Please ask the desk attendant for the "Aerobic Clipboard" to sign up or call 572-5500 to sign up over the phone.
- All classes are co-ed and sign ups are on a first come, first serve basis.
- Members may only sign themselves up. No group sign up will be permitted.
- Please contact the Wellness Center Service Desk if you have already signed up for a class but are unable to attend. Due to the limited number of spaces in each class, we ask that you be courteous to other members.
- Fall 2007 Aerobic Instructors are: Otilia Arroya, Teresa Burke, Morgan Hosking, Alison Joyce, Leah Kaplan,Danielle Malone, Pete Samberg, Laura Thibeault, Kimmy Walch and Elizabeth Young



Do you like to get off campus,
but not to just party?



Do you want to discuss something
besides the latest episode of
Desperate Housewives?



If so, attend the introduction meeting for

Academic Pursuits

Thursday, October 18th
Bates 6.30-8pm
Bates 221

A club for those students waiting to see
what our part of New England has to offer them



If you have any questions about seeing what else is out there,
contact Danielle Rice at drice7977@wsc.ma.edu
or Professor Brewster at Gbrewster@wsc.ma.edu

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800-648-4849
or www.ststravel.com.

Fri 10/05	Intramurals 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm Parenzo Gym	Tempura 10 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm Arno Gallery	Gaming Program 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm Ely 232
Sat 10/06	Football Game v. Mass Martime 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Alumni Turf	Intramurals 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Parenzo Gym	Women's Soccer v. Bridgewater State 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Alumni Turf
Sun 10/07	Patriots v. Cleveland 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Ely Main Lounge	Roman Catholic Mass 4:00 pm Chapel Upstairs	Intramurals 3:00 pm to 1:00 am Parenzo Gym
Mon 10/08	Men's Soccer v. Mass Maritime 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Alumni Turf	Intramurals 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Woodward Court 3	CAB 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Ely Main Lounge
Tues 10/09	Intramurals 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Campus Green	Persona & Sigma Tau Delta Meetings 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm B221	Rock Wall open to WSC Community/Families 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Rock Wall
Wed 10/10	Field Hockey v. Becker 3:00 pm o 6:00 pm Alumni Turf	Women's Soccer v. Keene State 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Alumni Turf	Intramurals 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm Woodward Court 3
Thurs 10/11	Old Times Shows Best of the "Beverly Hillbillies" 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Ely Main Lounge	Volleyball v. Elms 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Woodward Court 1	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Ely SGA Conference Room

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime, all majors welcome!



ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
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Getting wasted tonight

Katrina Powell
Voice Reporter



Photo by Karen Evans

It's a typical Thursday night here at Westfield State, and you're all ready to go out for a night of drinking. There are plenty of options on your plate for tonight: Fired Up, Tommy D's or maybe you're not quite the legal drinking age yet and you're just going to head over to one of the many streets that throw some great parties. You're ready to pound back some beers, play a couple games of beruit and just live the college life; that's what college is all about, right? There may be rules and regulations in place at this institution, but let's face it, if the students want to drink, 10-100s aren't going to stop us. And statistics show that 44 percent of students are binge drinkers--i.e., four or more drinks in two hours for men, and three for women. So what's the worst that could happen tonigbt? You plan to come back after 2 am so you don't have to deal with the RAs, and maybe you have a friend drive so that you won't get a DUI. You think that you're all set, ready for another Thirsty Thursday. But unfortunately, most students overlook the serious dangers of binge drinking.

According to statistics on About.com, a new study revealed that "drinking by college students contributes to an astonishing 1,400 student deaths, 500,000 injuries and 70,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year." And these are only the incidents that get reported. Think about how many times you've been at a party and a fight breaks out, or how many times you've seen a girl you know passed out on the couch unsupervised. And nobody really even pays attention to these highly intoxicated people. We watch as people draw on passed out friends faces, or we just laugh when they clumsily spill their drink all over their shirts. It's no big deal. But does anyone really know what to do when a friend passes out? How can we tell the difference between if they have alcohol poisoning or if they just drank a bit too much? And if you're incredibly drunk as well, how can you possibly safely assess the situation? How do you know when someone needs to be taken to the ER? What if someone is vomiting out in the backyard alone? Do we know how to make sure that they don't pass out and choke on their own vomit? It sounds stupid but many student deaths occur from this. And the truth is that these alcohol policies make students afraid of getting caught, so they are wary to take someone to the hospital, call for help -- even to the cops when a serious fight breaks out. Nobody wants to be a nark, so perhaps we let the fight continue, or tell tbe drunk girl to "sleep it off."

Students tend to think that drinking is just a way to have a good time, but the grave truth is that many students end up drinking beyond their control. A lot of first year students come to Westfield not knowing their limits, or perhaps they've never even tried alcohol before and this creates a huge problem. Most of the people we see getting 10-100s, throwing up in someone's backyard, or stumbling into their dorm hall at midnight are freshman. But it's not just a lower classman problem. According to the Westfield State College Campus Safety Chronicle, in 2006 alone, 524 students at Westfield State were found in violation of the liquor laws, and received disciplinary action. And that can't be all freshmen. Just last month, on Thursday, Sept. 6, the Westfield Police Department reported 21 minors in possession of /transporting alcohol, four fake IDs confiscated at the bar, Fired Up, 12 parents notified and three intoxicated people were stopped from purchasing alcoholic beverages. On that night, 15 cases of beer and seven bottles of hard liquor were also confiscated. But the objective isn't to stop students from drinking, because it's going to happen regardless.

"Our job is to make it more difficult for these kids to get into bars and clubs [but] what we're trying to do is prevent injury and date rape," says Sergeant Steve Dickinson of the Westfield PD.

The worst that any student anticipates after a night of drinking is a killer hangover. But what we don't realize is that we could be subject to incredibly dangerous occurrences. According to the Alcohol Policies Project, "binge drinkers were 21 times more likely to have been hurt or injured, engaged in unplanned sexual activity and driven a car after drinking." According to that same study, at 119 colleges with high drinking rates, 23 percent of students had experienced an unwanted sexual encounter, and 11 percent had been pushed, hit or assaulted. These numbers may seem insignificant, but when dealing with a large number of students, it's incredibly high. That means that almost one out of four students at 119 colleges encountered this unfortunate behavior.

When you're in college, it's easy to be carefree and independent, and often a student's biggest worry is that impossible-to-pass midterm that your Bio teacher insists on giving. But we have a lot more to worry about than just grades. We need to protect ourselves, because if we don't do it, no one else is going to. It sucks to say, but nobody is really watching out for you, counting how many beers you've had or looking for you when you've been gone for 30 minutes. You might have that one good friend who you can count on, or even a whole group, but when drinking is involved, everyone's inhibitions are lowered. We aren't thinking about wbat might happen to us if our driver decides to get drunk, if we funnel yet another beer or what's really the secret ingredient to jungle juice. We are simply just trying to get drunk, take some pictures and have a drama-free night. But in these situations, we need to take responsibility. Trust me, I know how great it is to just let loose and not worry about anything except how quickly you can fill up your shot glass; but not worrying about anything creates a dangerous environment for young drinkers, which could lead to any of the incidents previously mentioned. Of course underage drinking will never cease, no matter what policies are in effect or who tries to stop us. Because let's face it, if a cop takes away your fake ID, you're probably going to have your 21 year-old friend buy your booze instead. And the cops know that too.

"My guys go out to all the houses rented to college students in town, and we tell them...if you have a party, keep it small...We know that kids are going to party...just keep it to a minimum and be responsible," advises Dickinson.

The last thing we need on campus is an alcohol related death, because it would not only be a loss to our community, but it would also probably increase the policies that we already have in standing. So when you go out tonight, just remember to look out for yourself.

Have fun, but most of all, be safe.

10 reasons why Homer Simpson should be the next president

1. He's smarter than the last guy.

2. With an oval office, he can't bump into anything.

3. Fox News is already on his side.

4. He will take full advantage of the free food that comes with tbe job.

5. He has enormous experience apologizing for failed decisions.

6. He will appoint a Secretary of Donuts.

7. He will be the Secretary of Donuts.

8. His middle name isn't Hussein... anymore.

9. His vice president will be Mayor McCheese.

10. Kick-ass inauguration party! Bring a six pack and you're in.

Courtesy of David Lettermen's Top 10 List; May 17, 2007

Students think their peers drink more than they do...Check out page 10 for more information!

See two of our columnists go head-to-head on Page 7

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Poetry Slam great success

Andrew Martin
Voice Reporter

On Oct. 2, the main lounge of Ely was transformed into a stage for some of the most artistic and underrated thinkers that attend Westfield State. The Poetry Slam, put on by students with help from members of the English Department, was a huge success. The lounge was full and there was standing room only.

Poetry Slams are set up in three rounds. In the first round everybody who has signed up gets to perform. In round two the slammers with the top five scores perform another one of their poems. The top two scorers of the second round go head to head in the final round with their third poems. It is judged by five audience members who rate the poems on a scale of one to 10. The highest and lowest scores are dropped to even the scores out, so the points are out of 30.

There were several newcomers to the slam medium. Many performers were pushed by their English professors to give it a shot, while some were just curious. There were also a few that had slammed before and they were easy to pick out. The poems were aggressive and strong, as well as soft and sweet. Some were sensual and dirty while some portrayed imagery of grungy beauty and exquisite filth. Some of the slams were in your face and some made you think, and there were a few that were heart wrenching.

There was not a single bad performance all night, whether it was the performer's hundredth slam or their first. But this was a contest and it had to be judged. The first round consisted of 17 performers and they were narrowed down to five. The second round consisted of Keyanna Fowler, Alan- Michael Chest, Meaghan Brennan, Diona Brodie and Andrew Martin.

With the top five performing, the judges had an even tougher task ahead of them. It was hard enough to pick five from the first round but they had to pick two for the next round and the slammers weren't making it easy for them. The judges ended up picking Cbest and Fowler. They rock-paper-scissored to see who would perform first in the final round. Chest lead off and Fowler closed it out. Both gave solid slams. The audience was on the edge of their seats and into it, like they had been the entire night. Fowler won the most points in the final round making her the winner.

The top three slammers won prizes. Fowler was first with Chest coming in second. Rounding out the winners circle was Brennan in third place. The prizes were selected by English Professor Leah Nielsen. The top five poets will be going to American International College to perform at the Intercollegiate Poetry Slam on Oct. 23.

The Poetry Slam was a success. The main lounge of Ely was full and the art of slam poetry has been exposed to a few more people. There will definitely be people looking forward to the spring Poetry Slam.

The idea behind outrageous bookstore prices

Anne Zuev
Voice Reporter

After spending up to $700 on books, students know they are way too expensive. Does the bookstore agree?

According to the campus bookstore, they do not set the prices. Even if the prices are high, they are not the ones who have the control to lower them; Follett Education Group is.

Most college campus bookstores are owned and operated by the Follett Education Group. This is a family owned business that has been operating for over a hundred years.

Whether it is a state school or a private college, Follett owns almost everything. As a major distributor in the industry, Follett knows how to operate a thriving business, it uses it's techniques to thrive on the average college student.

It is aggravating to know that Follett uses this system to take away a large amount of money from the college student, knowing that we have no money to begin with. Isn't that a bit selfish? They are prospering on money we need to borrow in order to buy the books. They claim "it's simple" to buy the books from them for the semester. Yes, of course it's simple - take away most of the money the college student has, charge high prices for books and sit back to enjoy the profits!

Reality is reality however. Books are expensive whether owned by Follett or not. They don't have to be marked up 30 percent to be sold though. Even when purchasing the books, a strict return policy is still in place. To some extent it is a lose-lose situation.

We are lucky to sell the books back for at least something, though the amount we may get is much less.

While most students purchase books from the campus store, many online sources have been offering college books for much cheaper than the bookstore. Half.com or even Amazon.com have better offers than Follett bookstores. In addition, if selling books, the return rate is much greater online than selling the books at the campus store.

Therefore, don't get fooled by Follett's outrageous bookstore prices, but think for yourself.

"Happiness isn't getting what you want, it's wanting what you got."

-Garth Brooks

Editor's Desk



I can't believe it's already the middle of October. The first month of classes definitely flew by! I'm already applying for internships for next semester and setting up my class schedule for the spring. It's quite a reality check for me because this is the last time I'm going to go through the WSC course booklet and pick the classes to finish up my credits. It's the last time I'm going to get up at the crack of dawn and yell at my computer, like every other senior, fighting to get into the classes we need.

It's ironic that these are the things I'm going to miss when I graduate, along with the obvious things.

Like I said before, it's already mid-October **and the paper is doing amazing!** I couldn't be more proud and appreciative of my staff, reporters and columnists. So much time and effort is put into this paper and it has completely turned around compared to previous years. This isn't a small feat.

And it's great when students and staff come up to me and tell me how much they love the paper this year. I'm getting emails from people I've never spoken to, commending me and the staff. Thank you to everyone who is being so supportive and optimistic about the paper. It really makes a huge difference to us ;)

I hope everyone enjoys Homecoming weekend!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Cooler weather



Fire alarms at 2:30 a.m.

A little competition never hurt anyone

Andrew Martin
Voice Reporter

School is in full swing and what better way to relax then to toss a ball around. Maybe a pick-up game of some sort? Wouldn't it be great if there were pick-up games all the time and you could be on a team with your friends? What you're thinking of are intramural sports.

Here at Westfield State College there are several intramurals to participate in. There's flag football, three on three basketball, slow pitch softball and those are only the ones going on right now. There are several sports both fall and spring semester including floor hockey, volleyball, wiffleball, ultimate Frisbee, dodgeball and soccer just to name few.

Intramurals are a great way to unwind after classes. It's also a good way for students to stay in shape because I'm sure we all know how hard it is with the schedules many of us have here. They also feed the participants with a little competitiveness between their peers. It also lets athletes remain active since not everyone can't play sports for the school teams.

Sophomore Justin Courtney, who plays flag football and floor hockey, likes playing intramurals because, "They give you a chance to be in competition." It's a hard transition for a lot of high school athletes to be playing one to three sports during the school year, then to go to playing none. The intramurals open up options for those students to keep playing sports that they love and even try sports they have never played.

The intramurals are set up so that the student can play as many as they would like as long as they are on a roster. They are very rarely conflicting which means you could be doing intramurals all day, every day if you would like to. Intramurals are a great way to stay active during the week, as well as blow off steam or deal with stress.

The intramural program is run by Lou Ann Simschack and her office is in Parenzo gym room 169 if you have any questions. There is a small fee in order to have a roster, however you only have to pay once if you keep one-third of the same roster throughout the entire year.

Now go get a team of your friends together, pick a sport to play, pass in the roster and go have fun!

Library

HOURS OF OPERATION

FALL SEMESTER
September 4 - December 31, 2007

Regular Hours		Special Hours	
		September 4:	**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
		October 7:	**Closed**
		October 8:	**Closed**
Monday:	**8 a.m. - 11 p.m.**	**November 11:**	**Closed**
Tuesday:	**8 a.m. - 11 p.m.**	**November 12:**	**3 p.m. - 11 p.m.**
Wednesday:	**8 a.m. - 11 p.m.**	**November 21:**	**8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
Thursday:	**8 a.m. - 11 p.m.**	**November 22 - 24:**	**Closed**
Friday:	**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**	**December 9:**	**1 p.m. - Midnight**
Saturday:	**10 a.m. - 6 p.m**	**December 10 - 13:**	**8 a.m. - Midnight**
Sunday:	**1 p.m. - 11 p.m.**	**December 15:**	**9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**
		December 20:	**8 a.m. - 7 p.m.**
		December 22 - 31:	**Closed**

How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?



Washington DC Internship Interest Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 24

A representative from The Washington Center will be on campus Wednesday, Oct. 24, to meet with interested students and faculty. Classroom visits are planned along with a general interest meeting scheduled for 3:30 p.m., and a meeting with the Political Science Club at 4:30 p.m. in Parenzo Hall. These sessions are open to all students, regardless of major or class status. Contact the Career Center for specific details at 572-5206.

Many competitive placements require applications at least nine months in advance of the internship semester, so first and second year students are strongly encouraged to come by and learn more about these great opportunities to live and learn in the Capitol. Early applications are necessary for the White House, Capitol Hill, State Department, Environmental protection Agency, US Treasury and many federal criminal justice agencies.

Great news on the scholarship front for WSC students! The Westfield State College Foundation and the Washington Center recently approved generous scholarships for students attending the Washington program in the spring and fall semesters. This financial support, along with increased aid from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for all semesters, makes these internships affordable for eligible WSC students. In the fall and spring, tuition and fees are waived at the college. Students with financial aid continue to receive their typical financial aid awards. Limited paid placements with the federal government are available, particularly for students in Business (Accounting/Finance), Computer Science, Environmental Science, Math and Graphic Arts. Students with disabilities are offered significant financial assistance for supported internships with selected federal agencies during the fall and spring semesters.

All majors are eligible for consideration. Internship supervision and credit is provided by the appropriate WSC academic department. Students should consult their academic advisor to determine academic eligibility.

For additional information on the program or visitation schedule, please contact Maureen McCartney in the Career Center or email mmccartney@wsc.ma.edu.

The voice of commuters

Anna Zuev
Voice Reporter

When living on campus, the student body has a voice to project opinions, ideas and suggestions for the college community. If campus residents voice opinions, where is the voice of commuters?

With a large number of students commuting to campus for class, a great percentage of those students then go straight to work afterwards. However, these are still people who can greatly contribute to the campus by being involved in activities that benefit the students and the community as well.

Commuter opinions are needed to bring up new issues that may be overlooked by the college campus. A commuter is one that really knows what it is like to commute to school through hectic traffic on the Mass Pike, downtown Westfield or even on Western Avenue. With constant parking lot or traffic issues, a commuter knows what it feels like to actually *be* a commuter.

So with certain issues that pertain to commuters, why are they letting the college deal with issues without knowing the actual concerns of those affected?

Even though commuters come in and out, an e-mail to the Commuter Council or a trip to the Student Government Association office in Ely wouldn't hurt. It's not hard letting others know of a constant issue that is overlooked. And for those commuters that have the time, joining the Student Government Association would strengthen the voice for commuters. Not only would commuters build a good resume by joining campus organizations, they could make new friends as well.

Is the voice of commuters really non-existent? With a new parking lot plan in progress around Route 20, it's necessary to get a reaction from commuters.

Whether it is on the Commuter Council (meetings every Tuesday in Ely room 147 at 4 p.m.) or on SGA (meetings Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in Ely in the SGA room), a suggestion and an opinion are needed greatly.

The Dining Commons

Rob McGinnity
Voice Reporter

Have you ever pushed the lever that lets Gatorade flow, only to discover it isn't Gatorade? This is one instance I have come across in the Dining Commons during my short time here at WSC. I'm sure many of you out there can relate. Time and time again, I have found myself in a situation such as this one. I usually try to brush off these occurrences, but I have found them more prevalent at the DC. Food and drink products run out regularly which leads me to believe ordering supplies is unusually slow. When I asked a worker at the DC why they ran out of Gatorade, he told me it was because the students drink so much of it. This leads me to believe they aren't prepared to suit the needs of the student body. As a result, we are subjected to not having what we're accustomed to on a regular basis.

The lines going into the DC are generally slow, probably due to the fact that the swiping of cards is a slow process. After you are in the building additional things aren't up to par. I was passing by the salad bar and I got dripped on by some mystery liquid from the ceiling.

There is also a restriction on the food you can get at the DC. You can only take one piece of pizza and one cheeseburger at a time. This is to ensure that everyone gets food. Students should be able to eat as much as they want and not be restricted to how much food they can get at one time. The DC should have enough food ready to provide for us. I have only gotten salad once or twice but I'm told the lettuce is too wet and sometimes soggy, especially when mixed with salad dressing. Right next to the salad bar is the juice station. The fruit flies around the juice station are gross. The cups are next to the juice station, which always seems to run out when you want to get a cup. Then you have to go to the other side of the room to get a cup and wait in line again. Next to the cups are the drink machines which never seem to have ice. How hard is it to keep that thing filled with ice? I have noticed that having no ice makes students the most aggravated.



Photo courtesy of www.wsc.ma.edu

I asked students what they thought of the DC. I wanted to find out if students felt the same way I did. Madison, a freshman living on campus, heard from someone that they put laxatives in the food so you can't sue them. The food passes through your system faster so your chances of getting food poisoning decreases. Whether or not there is truth to this statement has yet to be discovered.

Students have attested to making a trip to the rest room soon after eating at the DC. One student said, "The food is good but it gives you the runs." Jesse Guyon said, "I eat it. I don't like it, but it's free."

This is because it is part of the meal plan our parents pay for so we don't pay money out of our pocket for it. A group of students said the DC food is good, but they were mad because of the lack of ketchup on the table. They are referring to the bottles of ketchup that were on the tables at the beginning of the year. They are no longer there, which makes students have to go up to get ketchup from the dispenser. This is very inconvenient when you sit down only to realize you forgot to get ketchup. The food variety is another thing that students have complained about. One student said, "Pizza, pasta and burgers everyday makes me wanna kill myself." I can see where he's coming from. I feel like I have the same thing everyday. I heard Northeastern has four cafeterias and The University of Massachusetts-Amherst has a wide selection to choose from and it's also open much later than the DC. Why is the DC closed so early? I know this is one of the biggest issues with students on campus.

The DC shuts down everything but the salad bar, deli and grill from 2 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. This is very inconvenient for students that want food in between lunch and dinner. One girl said, "Times that it closes are so annoying, I hate how it closes so early." The DC closes at 7 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. on the weekends. For students that play sports, this is a huge issue. They have practice or a game that runs after 7 p.m. so they are stuck without food. This forces them to get Subway and burn through their Sodexho Bucks. If the DC was open until 10 p.m. it would accommodate more students. I think there should be a rotation for people that work at the DC. Allow the older employees to work during the day and have younger employees work late. With the change of the hours at the DC and the addition of some entertainment, it could be greatly improved.

By entertainment, I mean televisions in the corners of the ceiling for students to watch. This would make the DC more of a place to socialize and eat rather then just eating and leaving. It would also help fundraisers with the addition of televisions. For instance, last week when there was Chicken Patty Night, there wasn't a big turnout. This is because the Red Sox game was on during the same time. This left students with the decision of picking chicken patties or the Red Sox. As you would expect, people went with the Red Sox. If the DC had televisions then students could have enjoyed Chicken Patty Night while watching the Red Sox. Small things like this could make a big difference.

Students are puzzled by the fact that they can have visitors stay over night but they aren't allowed to swipe their card to pay for them at the DC during the week. The presentation of the DC is concerning as well. The trays, for example, are in below average condition. I must get "Papa Smurf" on my tray at least once a day, not to mention other derogatory things carved on them. The chairs are also in poor condition. They get broken and then must be glued together. The chairs are an eye sore.

Students have told me that they like the deli at the DC. I disagree with them because they don't offer roast beef or turkey, which are two very popular cold cuts. I find it very frustrating that the DC does not offer sour pickle slices. I always get sour pickles on my hamburgers and the only ones offered are the bread and butter ones. I asked one of the cooks if they had any sour pickles and he said they get them once a week. I have only seen them once and I have resorted to getting pickles from Subway in order to get my fix.

The general concensus is that the DC should be open longer and should offer more of a variety. Joe Boerman, a freshman, said if he could change something with the DC he would have the it open longer on the weekends and have more of a variety.

There isn't much complaining about the food in general. One student said it looks good and then it isn't. Most students think the food tastes good though. The soft serve machine is a big hit among students. The only problem with the soft serve machine is that is it always broken. Cait, a freshman here at WSC, is heartbroken by the soft serve machine being broken. The DC isn't bad and it shouldn't be with the $1,000 plus we pay for meal plans. It's the little things that could be corrected that could improve the DC so much.

With some help the DC could be a hot spot on campus instead of that place that we're forced to eat at.

Interview with 1957 Editor-in-Chief

Molly Pappas
Editor-in-Chief

Lucille (Ferrarini) Moynihan is returning to Westfield State College this weekend to attend the Class of 1957's 50 year reunion. Moynihan was Editor-in-Chief of the campus newspaper in 1957.

M: Molly
L: Lucille

M: What was the newspaper called when you were Editor-in-Chief?

L: Westek.

M: What type of work did you do as the Editor-in-Chief 50 years ago?

L: (laughs) Everything!

M: How often did the paper come out?

L: I don't remember because it was such a long time ago.

M: Oh really? Because now it's a weekly paper. It comes out every Friday.

L: It's a lot of work!

M: Did you receive any type of academic credit for your work on the paper?

L: None.

M: None? Yep, that's the same as it is now.

L: And you need to have time to study!

M: Was there someone who revived the paper before you submitted it for print?

L: Uh, yes. There was a teacher, a professor, that would check it over.

M: I didn't realize you guys had to do that. It's different now. I pretty much run the paper...decide what goes in and what doesn't. Um, I read that you were your class's valedictorian.

L: Well yes, I was my class's valedictorian in high school.

M: How did you manage doing everything and still be at the top of your class?

L: A lot of work.

M: (laughs) Yeah. Were there a lot of opportunities opened up to you, because you *were* the top of your class?

L: No.

M: No? That's unfortunate. After you graduated from Westfield State, what did you end up doing?

L: Westfield was a teacher's college back then, so when I graduated, I went on to teach.

M: How was your experience as Editor-in-Chief at Westfield? Do you regret doing it?

L: No, no...I enjoyed it. I was the Editor-in-Chief of the paper in high school too.

M: Hopefully you can grab a copy of the paper when you are here for the Alumni weekend! You can see the difference between how it was then and how it is now.

L: I bet the paper is very different from how it was then.

M: Oh yeah, I bet! We have copies from way back when, but not as far back as the '50s. The paper has undergone a huge transformation over the decades though. Well, thank you so much for allowing me to interview you!

L: You're very welcome and I look forward to looking at a copy of the paper.

Voices Overheard

Where do you see yourself after Westfield State?



Ashlee Hazeltine
Class of 2008
English

"In Boston going to Emerson"



Dan Sullivan
Class of 2008
English

"In the Bahamas...all the way!"



Eryn Carter
Class of 2008
Communications

"Living at home and saving money for grad school."



Jenn Krok
Class of 2008
Communications

"Dreamland... writing for Cosmo in NYC"

Compiled by Jenn Krok

A new level of evil



MOLLY PAPPAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Megan Williams, a 20 year-old black woman from West Virginia, was allegedly held captive by six white people (with notorious criminal records) for, what some sources are saying, up to a week.

While she was held captive, Williams suffered beatings, was repeatedly sexually assaulted, deprived of food and water, and underwent abominable torture techniques. Instead of allowing Williams to shower, her captors would pour scalding hot water on her. Two of the female captors pulled chunks of hair out of Williams' head and forced her to perform oral sex on them.

Think that's sick? It gets worse.

Her captors would strangle her with a cable cord, force her to eat rat and dog feces, drink out of the toilet, pour hot wax on her bare skin, stab her and then make her lick up her own blood, and broke her arm in two places.

I'm getting nauseous just *typing* this. Why would ANYONE ever commit such disgusting acts of violence against someone else?

Williams is quoted in a written statement to authorities saying, "They said it was because I was colored. They said they don't like black people and they said they were going to hang me."

And people are still investigating as to whether or not this is a hate crime?

Want to hear the sickest part? If the six criminals (Frankie Lee Brewster, 49; her son, Bobby Ray, 24; Danny Combs, 20; George Messer, 27; Karen Burton, 46, and her daughter Alisha, 22) are charged, they would only face up to 35 years in prison. These six should not be allowed to see the outside world again. A person who says, "This is what we do to niggers," while she rips out entire chunks of your hair, doesn't deserve the liberty of being released from prison. She should rot and die there: all of them should.

West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd said, "There is simply no place in our society for this kind of inhuman violence and hatred against any man, woman, or child. Those responsible for causing such terrible pain and suffering, both physical and emotional, should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and be severely punished."

Here's another kicker. Immediately after a probable cause hearing, Williams was arraigned and held in a country cell unit for bad check charges.

Family and friends rallied behind Williams in protest of the charges, stating under her mental condition, she is easily manipulated and was tricked into deceitful action.

Are you kidding me right now? This woman has been tortured mentally and physically for a week, is still recovering from all of her injuries and she gets put in jail for an 11 misdemeanor count of writing worthless checks. There is a right place and time for things and this isn't it.

It amazes me the amount of idiocy people are capable of.

If you go onto blogs on the Internet that are discussing the Megan Williams case, some posted that Williams had a social relationship with one of her attackers, Bobby Ray Brewster. He has previously been charged with assault against Williams and spent some time behind bars for it. Some sources are saying that Williams went to visit Bobby Ray and that is when she was held against her will. Because she might have possibly *knew* Bobby Ray and because she might have possibly *went* to see him, some say she deserved what happened to her. If she was stupid enough to return to him, she had it coming.

Others are ranting that because Williams is black, and her attackers white, the media hasn't jumped on covering it. Some have argued that if six black people had attacked a young white girl that the media would be having a field day right now.

Part of me agrees with them. I've asked several people about their thoughts on this case and I get the general response of, "Huh?"

People are trying to understand why these six career criminals did what they did. We're not going to understand it. There is no point in trying to understand their justification for their actions. There is no justification. Some people are born without consciences, how and why doctors are still trying to figure out.

It has been reported that the charges filed against the sixth suspect, Karen Burton, which include "kidnapping, first degree sexual assault, malicious wounding, assault during the commission of a felony and 13 counts of battery," were brought to a grand jury last Thursday. Charges against the five other suspects are planned to be brought before a grand jury in January (International Herald Tribune, The Associated Press).

John 7:24 "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

Computers v. Sara Charbonneau



Sara Charbonneau

Voice Columnist

Someday, after I've written my book about the MassPike, I'm going to write a sequel about my computer, entitled, "Sara Has the Worst Luck Ever: A Tale of Why Students Go Insane." You'll laugh... you'll cry... you'll definitely throw up whatever you just ate at the DC. I'm sure most of you know exactly what I'm talking about!

Well, here I sit again, in my entirely too low swivel chair at work and I've decided to write another article for The Voice because well, bankruptcy case filing is super boring, and I think people would appreciate my tale from this weekend regarding my Dell laptop which is no more.

So on Friday, I went home from work exhausted since I've been working 40 hours a week and taking six classes since September. Frankly, I've been sleeping maybe four hours a night (whoever said that college is supposed to be when you get to sleep in, go to class occasionally, drink like a fish and walk away with a degree, you were WRONG). So anyways, I get home and go online to check the status of my online classes in order to determine what homework I need to be doing over the weekend in between my bouts of being in a coma.

So as I'm checking my classes, I go into a certain class and realize that, holy crap, I have a midterm due on Sunday night!! Being overly tired and needing a stiff drink and a back massage, I overdramatically fell to the floor, rolled around for a good 10 minutes complaining and only got up when my boyfriend offered to take me out to the Texas Roadhouse so I could get margaritas. It's the little things in life that make me happy.

Anywho, flash forward to Sunday. As of 8 a.m. I have yet to start my midterm, so I oh-so sadly skip church (I went to Catholic school for eight years, I can skip it occasionally, jeez!) and begin to do the 10 pages of questions and problems. Now just for some background info, my laptop sucks. I mean really, it's absolutely terrible. It shuts itself off every 20 minutes because the fan is pretty much gone and it gets too hot, so I've been using my boyfriend's. But since he was doing his own homework in the living room, I took mine into the bedroom to sit on the bed where it's much more comfortable.

So I'm sitting there, and several hours go by. Turns out watching re-runs of The Hills/ America's Next Top Model/ any show on HGTV/QVC isn't exactly productive when it comes to actually DOING the homework. So I shut the TV off and buckle down to do it.

Several more hours, a few amaretto sours and nine pages later, I was almost done! Just a few more words and I could save it and send it off to be graded. Taking my sweet time, I had kept saving the document just in case my computer shut itself off or stalled to the point where I would have to shut it down. I opened the Internet, went to the WSC website and went to open the Plato homepage. As I typed in my username and password, it happened. The computer stalled. Frustrated, I am almost done; just let me send it in! – I had boyfriend come in and see if he could un-freeze it long enough to complete the midterm and send it in. Nope, wasn't going to happen. I had to shut it down. When I went to turn the computer back on, my computer screen would no longer turn on. It was gone.

Now for those who know me, I can throw a pretty mean temper tantrum when I need to, and this was one of those times. My computer was shot, and so was the last several hours I had just worked on my midterm. There was no way I'd be able to get it back. So I stood up, screaming and crying, etc., etc., and tossed the computer on my pillowtop mattress covered by some 800 thread count sheets and a down comforter (a.k.a., the softest bed in the world, its phenomenal). The computer screen, behind the plastic or whatever is keeping the screen safe, SHATTERED. And I mean shattered. My computer is done. Finite. Gone. Dunzo.

At that point, I had to take boyfriend's computer and do the work on there and he went up to his campus to work, so I was able to get my midterm done by the skin of my teeth. But really, it was just an unbelievable scenario. I'm beginning to wonder if I'm being videotaped like the Truman Show. "The Sara Show." It'd be hilarious.

At this point, could anything else go wrong?? Actually, DON'T answer that. I don't need my car breaking down or my apartment going up in flames. Guess I just should have gone to church, huh?

"Tea" ingredient

Erin E. Ethier
Psychology Columnist

Green, Black, Pomegranate, Honey, White – there isn't a color or flavor that you can't get with a tea. A person can rarely say that they dislike tea with such a variety of tastes.

In a recent article titled, "Fit to a Tea" by Greg Isaacson, two teas, Green and Black, are listed as being highly beneficial to our bodies (Isaacson, 58). From stress to sunburns to liver disease, Green and Black Tea can decrease or even prevent specific symptoms or illnesses.

Without a doubt, every student here at WSC has experienced stress. According to Isaacson, Black tea can "speed recovery from stressful events" (Isaacson, 58). If you're wondering where you would even purchase Black Tea, we have a wonderful café on campus serving a wide variety of teas!

How are all of you freshman handling the dreaded 'freshman-15'? Instead of drinking all of those "legal drinks" that can be so fattening, try mixing a cup of Green and Black teas. An antioxidant called catechins can speed your metabolism, making for fewer calories that put on weight.

Green and Black Tea can aid in many other ailments or diseases such as arthritis, cancer, intestinal inflammation, bone health, cholesterol, heart disease, brain health, diabetes and oral health. Who knew tea could be such a key ingredient in making our bodies healthier in so many ways!

Isaacson, Greg. "Fit to a Tea." Psychology Today August 27, 2007.

iPods

A simple 5 letter word



Eryn Carter

Managing Editor

iPods. A simple five letter word that is pretty much in everyone's vocabulary these days. They're as a common as a cell phone today, and pretty much everyone has them. It seems like if you don't, you're just one of those people who are protesting against them. They're just a music player. It's not like by having one you're supporting the war in Iraq!

But I'm not here to tell you about the iPod and how it works because, quite honestly, if you don't know by now, then you're just out of the loop. I'm here to tell you about a simple observation that I come across far too often.

There's always going to be a day where you put your iPod on and just as your favorite song of the moment starts playing, someone meets up with you and starts talking. As many people would do, you turn your iPod down and chat away. Well, as I recently witnessed, there are just some people who feel turning down the volume is unnecessary; even taking one, JUST ONE, headphone out is just too much.

As I was walking out of my apartment last week, I watched as two people in front of me, both with iPods glued to their ears, tried to have a conversation. It basically involved one person saying something, with the other responding with a loud 'What?' and so on. Now, obviously the easiest solution would have simply been to turn the sound down, but that was clearly too much to handle for the iPod listeners. Were they just too lazy or were they simply not interested in what the other was saying?

So here's a little tip. If you're going to talk to someone, either turn the sound down or simply take out one headphone. They aren't attached... so why not try it for a change? Just a simple observation from a simple observer.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Wireless users in the library, and elsewhere on campus, have been unable to access the library's numerous subscription databases from the library's home page (www.lib.wsc.ma.edu). While the technical issues are being resolved by the I.T. staff and vendors, we have created an alternate home page (http://www.lib.wsc.ma.edu/index2.html) configured for wireless users that will allow access to the library's databases through the college network. Wireless users can also get access by clicking Wireless Home Page at the bottom of the library's regular home page.

Brian Hubbard
Head, Reference & Information Services
Ely Library

To the students:

Starting in next weeks issue of "The Voice" I will be offering advice to anyone who would like some. This will allow me to be more personal with my readers. If you would like any advice, please send an e-mail to:
kcournoyer3103@wsc.ma.edu
and I will do my best to answer every one.

Sincerely

Your "Abby"

Battle of The Voice columnists

Why Westfield State girls complain too much

And about the wrong things



Dan Sullivan

Casual Observer

I can't help but notice that these days, The Voice has become a sounding board for Westfield State girls clamoring about the perils of being single, why dating in college is hard, anecdotes about some nameless boy who broke their heart or despairing that there are no nice guys in the world.

While the punchlines of these particular pieces are varied all over the map—from "being single is a double-edged sword" or "beware of drunk boys" to "how to deal with jealousy issues" etcetera etcetera etcetera ad nauseam—they are more or less the same, tired pleas for empathy that usually fall on deaf ears. Plus, "Seventeen" wouldn't even publish tearjerkers this bad. So please, let's give this some real thought before you commit it to print, okay?

Does the age old adage that "guys are assholes" and "girls are crazy" hold up in some cases? Absolutely. But let's be serious for a moment—maybe the reason the female population on campus are the ones complaining so prolifically in print is because they themselves are doing something wrong. Therefore, as someone of the male gender, I feel compelled to share a few beliefs that myself and many other guys I know hold sacred that just might shed some light on your seemingly endless plight.

Now I'm aware this sort of brutal honesty isn't likely to get me many dates, and a lot of you will probably e-mail me angrily calling me an asshole. As sharp as my criticisms may be, the truth is, I love girls. I have all their albums. And nothing disappoints me more than seeing them squander years of their lives dating guys with either no spine or too much spine, endlessly convincing themselves they are a lower standard than they're worth. With that said, let's kick off this show.

1. Please stop trying to look like Paris Hilton. Having blonde hair does not necessarily make you more attractive. A lot of guys actually prefer brunettes or redheads. Then there's makeup. If you've got more cake on your face than you will at your wedding, chances are you look sort of like a human Barbie doll. Guys who are into that sort of thing probably already own life-size plastic sex dolls—and they're probably not your type.

2. Confidence and arrogance are two very different things. If you're like the many Westfield State girls I've met, you probably have yet to hone in on this. Let me help. You can start by weeding out guys with gelled-up, blow up haircuts, who pop their collars and rock chin straps. Those guys think they're way cooler than they are. Trust me, I've met them. Oh, and if "the boy who broke your heart" is a fake thug who grew up in Orange, Mass. but is waiting for his rap career to take off, you're doing something wrong. If you feel like there's no nice guys in the world, maybe you need to reevaluate "your type." Introduce yourself to a guy who's totally unlike the guys you "usually date." Just start a conversation. It's not that hard.

3. Stop complaining that guys are always hitting on you. First of all, it must be a tough life if so many guys are approaching you on a regular basis. Having your pick of anybody whose parts dangle at your disposal, I can't imagine such a horrible thing. Second, complaining about it makes you sound arrogant, intimidating or both. This drives nice guys away in droves. And it makes you sound conceited. Which brings me to my next point.

4. Stop going to bars if you're not looking to meet people. You're in college. Bars are a *social atmosphere*. Not all guys who talk to you at the bar are hitting on you. Not every guy is original, but not every guy is trying to be. Nice guys usually honestly want to make conversation because they actually care if you're as cool as you are attractive. And if you do indulge them, don't just make them listen to you talk. You can't tell if there's a connection with someone if they can't get a word in edgewise. Moral of the story, if you just want to "hang out with your girls," then stay home, rent a movie and make some popcorn.

5. The company you keep says a lot about you. If you're one of *those* girls who is always going on and on about "the boys" at Mechanic/Jefferson/Washington/East Who Cares Street, you give the impression that you're *that* girl. You know what I mean. It says to a nice guy that you're into the kind of dudes covered in #2. We really pick up on this stuff. Trying to appear super-popular makes you intimidating to a guy who isn't looking for a wild, out of control, party girl. You may not be that girl, so if you're not, don't mistakenly give off the appearance that you are. Basically, too many of you structure yourselves around what you *think* guys want.

Nice guys exist—I know a ton of them. And we're not perfect either, I know. But please, stop the complaining. Give us something to work with.

Disagree? Pissed off? E-mail me at thisalphabettown@comcast.net and I'll be happy to tell you why you're wrong.

VS.

Don't stop believing



Nicole Slyvester

Voice Columnist

The world that women live in is a vastly different place than men perceive it to be. No matter how much they profess to know or understand, the truth of the matter is that men are always on the outside, looking in. Their knowledge and understanding of the female existence will always fall short of the necessary information to make sense of our reality. Men will never understand the intricacies of navigating gender relations between both the competitive females and lackluster males. In all honesty, it's hard enough for us women to get along because of the competition, the occasional cattiness and the mood swings that come once a month. The common evil that enables us to overcome these things and band together is men- not that we hate them but we are banded together in our disappointments and our ability to share. If we are going to allow ourselves to be ridiculed for speaking our minds and sharing our pain with fellow females by a man- we are betraying the one true bond of our sisterhood.

So instead of getting mad, I'd like to encourage the rest of the female population (and the male population that I have spoken to as well) that read my columns and find themselves entertained, even if they aren't necessarily involved in the experience, and say don't stop believing.

Only you can know what is right for you- no one outside of you without your experience or frame of reference can tell you whether your everyday expectations are acceptable, especially a man. I might not have five points to share today, but I have three that I feel are entirely valid and encouraging to the women whiners at Westfield state.

1. Don't let go of your dreams! If your dream has always been to look like Paris Hilton, is it really going to bother you if someone else tells you she's not attractive? We all grew up with our own personal role models and definitions of beauty. Having yourself compared to a blow up doll is going to be incredibly offensive to you, but it doesn't mean that your idea of beauty is wrong.

2. Know your type! Personally, I really enjoy boys with gelled hair, chin straps and popped collars. Just because some guys dress alike doesn't mean they *are* alike. It seems to me that it's just a cop-out to say that all nice guys are entirely different from attractive guys. Plus, girls, we are all attracted to different things. So at first we're attracted to their looks, but that doesn't mean that we are dumb enough to be duped into a relationship with a rock just because he's pretty.

3. You can't make absolutes from the outside. If a guy seems arrogant to another guy, it's just because he possibly is entirely better off and more confident than the underling who is offended by Mr. Arrogance's self assurance. If you don't find yourself put off or offended by what this guy thinks of himself, there's nothing wrong with him. What you feel about someone you're dating should be entirely separate from what people you don't know feel about them.

Don't be afraid to whine. If you're unhappy, you're unhappy, if you are well-spoken, well-written and respectable don't be afraid to share.

Horse The Band: "A Natural Death"

Chris Dondoros
A&E Editor



Photo courtesy of image.listen.com/...18/8/4/7/797488_356x237.jpg

So, this is what metal sounds like when it's mashed together with low-fi, old school Nintendo-esque keyboards.

It may sound like a gimmick on the surface, but Horse The Band has consistently been able to pull it off without a hitch.

Now, I'm not going to lie. I did not like this album upon first hearing it. Their previous release, "The Mechanical Hand," was one of the most original metal albums I've heard in a long time, featuring breakneck tempos, inventive guitar work and a surprising amount of versatility for a band that's (unfortunately) been pushed into the "metalcore" subgenre by default. The "gimmick" of the band – the aforementioned keyboards – proved to be their secret weapon, not only giving many songs a lighthearted feel, but also giving the entire album a sense of melody a cut or two above most of their peers.

As the title alone may imply, "A Natural Death" is a much darker album than their previous efforts (which also includes the Pizza EP), and this takes a little getting used to. Not wanting to be lumped into genres ending in "core" any longer (what the hell is "nintendocore"?) Horse The Band sets out from the very beginning to break themselves of these labels, and in the process, creating an album that's alternately both inspiring and frustrating.

The musicianship is still there, as proven on album opener "Hyperborrea." The heaviness is still there, as seen on tracks such as "New York City." The diversity is still there, as seen on synth-pop tracks such as "Sex Raptor." What's missing though, is the sense that the band is having fun. It only feels like they're trying too hard to break out of a genre that they've created for themselves.

Overall 4 / 5

'We Own the Night'

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: C

James Gray wrote and directed this crime "drama" starring Joaquin Phoenix and Mark Wahlberg as brothers on opposite sides of the law in 1988 Brooklyn.

The film begins strong by depicting the dichotomy of the worlds each brother inhabits. The club Phoenix manages has loud music, a packed dance floor and drugs aplenty. While the NYPD's party is in a local church basement to celebrate Wahlberg's recent promotion. Present at the gathering is Phoenix and Wahlberg's father, Police Chief Grusinsky, played by the magnificent Robert Duvall. Phoenix also brings along his girlfriend Amada Juarez, played flatly by Eva Mendes.

Wahlberg and Duvall inform Phoenix that his club has been flagged as a location frequented by a local dealer. This information eventually leads to a raid of the club, causing a significant rift between the brothers. The aftermatb of the raid spells trouble for Wahlberg, which changes the direction of the story completely. It also spells trouble for the audience because the film is forced to rely totally on Phoenix. While Phoenix is a tremendously gifted actor, he does not bave much to work with here.

The story limps along from there. It is punctuated with a nice shoot out here and a fantastic car chase there, but overall remains no more than mediocre. The story line is just not interesting enough. It's never truly captivating. There is not enough depth and lacks development of the characters as well as the major plot points. And it is a shame because all of the acting prowess is there but is squandered.

On top of this is the poor editing choice of fading to black multiple times throughout the film. Not only does it make the film feel longer than it is, but the majority of the fades cut quickly from black to the next, usually well-lit shot. It's just too jarring.

"We Own The Night" never becomes what it tries so hard to emulate. It simply does not have a strong enough premise. It doesn't grab the audience and hold them. Nor does it exhibit the production values necessary to make up for this deficiency. "Heat," "Mystic River," "Training Day" and "The Departed" all represent the complete package. "We Own The Night" stands as a cheap imitation.

BOTTOM LINE: Besides a stellar chase sequence, "We Own The Night" is nothing more than the poor man's "Departed."

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

Editor's Desk



It's that time of year again... well, almost. No, not midterms. Halloween! So, on that note, what are you planning on wearing? I'm still trying to figure it out, and still trying to figure out where the best party will be. As college kids, there aren't many holidays where we can go out and have a grand old time. I mean really, who's going to go out to a Columbus Day party dressed in costume?! But Halloween, it's the one day of the year that we can get away with wearing anything... just for one night.

So on that note, we're going to have a little contest. I want you, the readers, to think up my Halloween costume, and email them to us at The Voice. Whoever comes up with the best gets a bag of candy... your FAVORITE candy. And if I decide to use the idea, you'll get something extra too! SO get thinking and send in those ideas!

Eryn Carter
Managing Editor
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Top 10 American Films

1. Titanic (1997)
2. Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope (1977)
3. Shrek 2 (2004)
4. E. T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
5. Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace (1999)
6. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006)
7. Spider-Man (2002)
8. Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (2005)
9. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)
10. Spider-Man 2 (2004)

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

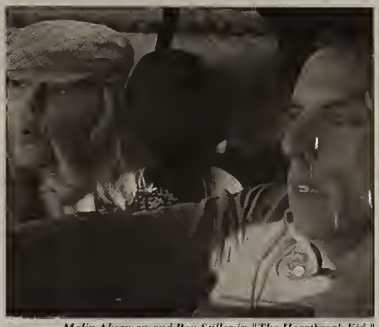


Illistrated by Michelle Ahern

What a 'Heartbreak'

BILL GEORGE
THE MOVIE DUDE

Grade: D



Malin Akerman and Ben Stiller in "The Heartbreak Kid." Photo courtesy of media.katu.com/images/071004_Heartbreak_Kid.jpg

I looked up "The Heartbreak Kid" on the Internet Movie Database in order to check the spelling of names for this review and what-not when something struck me. Under 'Plot Synopsis' the IMDB reads, "This plot synopsis is empty." This automated message really does a brilliant job of capturing the essence of this overlong Farrelly Brothers comedy. Empty of laughs, lacking in thought and void of purpose.

Ben Stiller plays the lead, a nice guy named Eddie who is 40 years old and still single. After seeing his exfiancé get married he decides, with the help of his friend and father, that he should also take the long overdue plunge. He does so with a woman named Lila, whom Eddie meets while attempting to stop someone from stealing her purse. Malin Akerman, who holds nothing back in her portrayal of a mad woman, plays Lila. Eddie only notices this madness after the wedding and during the honeymoon. While he questions his future with her, he begins to fall for another woman who is staying at the same honeymoon resort.

The Farrelly Brothers have the 'Adult Romantic Comedy' handbook and they run through it step by step. Every plot device is contrived and predictable while all the usual easy laughs are here: a crazy old father who makes raunchy remarks, a ridiculous misunderstanding between characters which eventually erupts, a few gross-out moments as only the Farrelly Brothers can deliver and even a bestiality gag. Sound like a good time? I didn't think so.

Did I mention Carlos Mencia is in this movie? That unfunny, joke stealing, obnoxious plague that infects this Earth known as Carlos Mencia has a role in this major DreamWorks motion picture... Say it ain't so...

On the bright side ,there is one thing in this film that prevents it from being a complete disaster and his name is Rob Corddry. Once a Daily Show correspondent, Corddry plays Stiller's best friend and confidant. He is the only person in the film with any screen presence and the only one worth your attention. But his role is so minor that the film remains instantly forgettable.

BOTTOM LINE: Don't let it break your heart, or more importantly, your wallet.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

I'm looking at another of those cartoons, one that has come from the mind of Gary Larson. A duck is walking into a house and its owners are sitting in a love seat. The woman turns to her husband and says, "Earl...Remember, be gentle but firm...we are absolutely, positively, NOT driving him south this winter."

I'm now going to take that cartoon WAY too seriously.

Can't blame the duck for catching a ride south instead of investing lots of energy flying. In all likelihood, Earl is a nice guy who likes to be helpful and please people, even if it causes heartache for himself. In that case, Earl will help and feel good about it. On the other hand, Earl may be an individual who doesn't know how to say, "NO," and mean it.

While we may be psychoanalyzing Earl (which probably really should be left up to the psychology students), the fact is the duck is making a request that isn't reasonable or fair. He can and should be doing his own flying. There are things we should do for ourselves.

We all have friends like the duck. They are individuals who approach us and ask us to do things for them that they should be doing for themselves. The first time might be a "favor" because they were in a bind, and then suddenly one day we wake up and discover that what started as a one time favor has turned into a habit that appears to only benefit the one who looks like that duck.

Who are some of the ducks that you know? Allow me to suggest a few...

The one who asks you to do their lab assignment for them/borrows your results

The one who repeatedly asks to borrow your notes

The one who doesn't pay attention in class and then wants your help

The one who does no work and then wants equal credit for a group project

The one who repeatedly asks to borrow your car, and never offers anything for gas or maintenance

You get it. You know lots of ducks who don't care how it puts you out as long as they get what they want.

You aren't doing them a favor by being an enabler. There are some things people should do for themselves.

I am not suggesting that you stop being a helpful or nice person. You should be. What you don't want to do is enable a person who is developing bad habits. There are things people should do for themselves.

We should be able to get ourselves up on our own, to class on time and keep our half of the room respectable. When we borrow a car, it should be returned with gas in the tank. When we borrow notes, we should be able to offer a reasonably intelligent set in return.

I like to talk about Jesus. Jesus was about serving, helping and pouring himself/ourselves out for one another. At the same time, he drew a line and also called people to accountability. The sick man he heals is called to take up his mat and go. The healed demoniac is sent to live his own life. The man who wants Jesus to tell his brother to divide the inheritance with him is told by Jesus, "Go and settle with your family yourself." When the disciples are faced by hungry crowds and want Jesus to send them away, he effectively says, "You see the problem. Feed them." When they don't understand, he demonstrates and teaches; but afterward expects them to be able to do it on their own.

As followers of Jesus we are called to take responsibility for ourselves and we are called to serve, but not to become enablers.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. Sadly for the next few weeks I will not be available since I will be participating in a continuing education event; however, Father Dean and Rabbi Joyce are more than capable of assisting. Incidentally, you are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Ave. Worship takes place whether or not the minister/chaplain is present, because Christ is always present wherever two or three are gathered.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

Westfield State research finds student social norms healthier than perceived

College students tend to overestimate how much their peers drink, smoke or engage in other unhealthy behaviors. And when they learn the real story, it can have a positive affect on the choices they make themselves.

These are some of the findings from an ongoing research project at Westfield State College assessing student behavior and perceptions, as well as a program that can help change student behavior for the better.

"The program uses actual social norms to influence the behavior of other students," said Nancy Bals, assistant director of athletics and one of the principal program directors.

Research by a number of social scientists indicates that our perceptions of social norms can strongly influence our own behavior in many areas, such as alcohol consumption, and other potentially risky behaviors. Some researchers, including H. Wesley Perkins and David W. Craig from the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, found that correcting misperceptions about social norms on drinking can reduce campus alcohol misuse.

"Our survey data shows that Westfield State students, as well as most athletes, have common misperceptions about drinking on campus. We have learned that presenting the facts about actual student behavior helps alleviate common misperceptions on campus," Bals said. "The perceived norms around drinking are much higher than the actual norm. By reducing the misperceptions, we hope to lower the incidences of unhealthy behavior."

An example from the data shows that when students were asked how often they think the average student on campus uses alcohol, 81 percent of them overestimated. Most students thought that students typically drink three times a week. The research shows that most (64.4 percent) Westfield State College students drink once a week, less often or not at all.

Students also greatly overestimated their peer's use of tobacco and other substances. Random, anonymous surveys of both athletes and the general student population were done last April to assess student behaviors and to provide a foundation for the social norms campaign. Compared to results from previous surveys on campus, the recent surveys indicated downward trends in use of tobacco and other drugs.

Myth:

Students drink at least three times a week

Reality:

Students drink one time or less per week

The research is a component of a larger alcohol education and awareness program known as the Alcohol "CHOICES" Education (ACE) program conducted on campus and inspired by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) "CHOICES" program to raise awareness of alcohol abuse on college campuses and to increase collaboration on campuses in alcohol education efforts.

The Westfield State portion is funded by a $30,000 NCAA grant over three years. The NCAA grant is being matched by an additional $30,000 in college funds over the three-year grant period, said Matthew Van Heynigen, Westfield State College Foundation relations coordinator.

The ACE program also has involved several informational events organized by Chaitali Brahmbhatt, a director in the Residential Life department and also a principal program director for the research project, with the goal of changing student behavior.

During National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, the first social norms message will be released, emphasizing that 64.4 percent of Westfield State students drink once a week, less often, or not at all. This message will be displayed for several weeks in various forms, and then a second message will be presented. Four messages will be released over the course of the academic year, Bals said.

"The ACE program is a positive addition to Westfield State College's ongoing programs. The college has always taken a multifaceted approach to substance abuse prevention," said Brian Cahillane, substance abuse specialist at the college's Counseling Center and collaborator in the on-campus research.

Myspace band of the week

Kim Casey
A&E Columnist

The popularity of funk music may be gone but it certainly hasn't been forgotten. Four musicians from Brimfield and Holland, Mass. have created a jam band mixed with a refreshing funk groove. The band is called Jabooda.

Members of the band include Nate Dube on lead guitar, vocals and keyboard, Jon Sapaugh on guitar and vocals, Travis Sweney on bass and Brian Blozie on drums.

They have been Myspace music members since May of 2006, and a band for even longer.

The site is very simple, leaving the important information easily accessible to anyone viewing the site. They have a list of upcoming shows, set lists from past shows and three songs that show their sound. The quality is good enough to hear the well crafted bass lines and guitar riffs.

They usually play shows in the Southbridge area of Massachusetts. The next show is Oct. 27. CDs are available. All you need to do is send the band a message.

If you are interested in a new local band with a funk beat that you can dance to, I highly suggest you check out Jabooda at www.myspace.com/jabooda.

A true historical conquest for Josh Ritter

Molly Coyle
A&E Columnist

What do you get when you mix the guitar stylings of James Taylor, a voice that's a cross between Bob Dylan and John Lennon, special sound effects on synthesizers and traditional orchestral instruments, like violins? You get Josh Ritter, the only artist that I've heard so far, who could combine all these elements into a single album: "The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter."

Released Aug. 21, 2007, "The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter" holds his listeners with a variety of different moods (peppy, mellow, etc.) and instrumentation within each song. Some of his songs, such as "Right Moves" have more of a pop feeling with their catchy lyrics ("Am I making all the right moves? Am I singing you the right blues? Is there a time when I can call you, just to see how you are doing?..."), and sunny chords. Other songs have a bit of a country twang, such as "Next to the Last Romantic," and still other tracks sound like they could be Paul Simon or Bob Dylan cover songs, such as "To the Dogs or Whoever," and "The Temptation of Adam," yet they all still manage to incorporate a combination of a steadfast organ, a sweet string section, a sultry brass section, a choir of angels and startling special sound effects. All those previous aspects, plus a fairly average voice that sometimes sounds remarkably like the voice of a the love child between John Lennon and Bob Dylan, causes me to think of classic rock Gods of the past, and being the huge classic rock fan that I am, I certainly didn't mind that at all.

One of my favorite songs, "The Temptation of Adam" put him more in line with the lyric and musical style of James Taylor or Paul Simon. With its simple melody, thoughtful lyrics ("Oh Marie if you would stay then we could stick pins in the map, Of all the places where you thought that love would be found, But I would only need one pin to show where my love's at..."), soft singing and finger-plucking on the acoustic guitar, it's very mellow and has much more of a folk sound. Somehow, in a song where you would never expect it, Ritter throws in a little action for the string section as well, briefly in the beginning, and then during the interlude, which is distinctly his brand. This can create quite a shock, but the soft-playing subtly of the strings and the gentleness of the song blend together so naturally that suddenly, you realize that the song could not be played any other way.

The song "Rumors" is another favorite song of mine off this album. With a diligent bass line that sounds distinctly like "My Sharona" by The Knack, a simple beat and image-invoking, witty lyrics, like, "And the string section screaming like horses in a barn, burnin' up" this song could be an instant classic.

As much as I thoroughly enjoyed just about every aspect of this album, I did find one fault with it: it's so mellow and relaxing that I had difficulty focusing on the lyrics, thus making it difficult to figure out what the songs are about. I'm not sure whether this is because the lyrics don't really make sense (another feature of the Beatles at times: "Come Together") or because his voice is just so hypnotizing that's it's hard to pay attention.

Continued on Page 13

Lead Sails Paper Anchor: Atreyu's way of jumping the shark?

Chris Dondoros
A&E Editor

Over the past five years, the Orange County, California quintet, Atreyu, has built up quite the reputation within the underground music scene. Combining elements of hardcore and metal – screaming vocals, downtuned, chugging guitar riffs, break downs and soaring guitar leads – with cleanly sung, radio-ready choruses, their unique sound has earned them spots on tours ranging from the Warped Tour to Ozzfest. After the release of "A Death Grip on Yesterday" in 2006, they signed with a major record label Hollywood Records, prompting many longtime fans to accuse them of "selling out" almost immediately. A year later, this album won't do much to quiet those critics; in fact, it may even be tough for longtime fans of the band to digest.

Much of the band's trademark sound has been tweaked. While previous efforts have shown a band slowly but surely maturing as songwriters and lyricists, their major-label debut (coincidentally) is their biggest step forward in almost every respect. Most notably, the vocals are much less aggressive on this album, with lead singer Alex Varkatzas – gasp – actually singing. While some songs retain the same intensity of their early work, most songs on the album are notably less "heavy," focusing much less on breakdowns than on complex (yet catchy) guitar riffs, as showcased in songs such as "Becoming the Bull," "Honor," or the Buckcherry-meets-Skid Row riffs of "Blow."

Will Atreyu win over many new fans with this one? Yes. Will Atreyu alienate many old fans with this one? Yes.

For the record though, stellar acts such as Hilary Duff and the Jonas Brothers are signed to the same record label, Hollywood Records. Until they go on tour together, I won't consider Atreyu "sellouts" by any means, only a band that has the balls to try something new.

3.5/5



Photo courtesy of www.onguide.com/images/atreyu_2005.jpg



Photos by Karen Evans & Hugh Mailly



Collage of Oct. 16 Pep Rally by:

Mike Coughlin

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PANGEA DAY

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* ART/COMMUNICATIONS-DESIGN & PRODUCTION
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What is Pangea Day?

Pangea Day taps the power of film to strengthen tolerance and compassion while uniting millions of people to build a better future.

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On May 10, 2008- Pangea Day - sites in Cairo, Jerusalem, London, New York City, and Rio de Janeiro will be video-conferenced live to produce a 4-hour program of powerful films, visionary speakers, and uplifting music.

GENERAL INTEREST MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY OCTOBER 23rd 7:00pm
WHERE: COMMUNICATION COMMON ROOM
ELY 3RD FLOOR(STAIRS BEFORE THE LIBRARY)

ANY QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/INTEREST CONTACT
MIKE COUGHLIN At mcoughlin1713@wsc.ma.edu or 413.426.4272

Theft of computers startles Westfield students and staff

Elizabeth Stack
Voice Reporter

On Sunday September 30, Public Safety here at Westfield State was notified of some thefts, which had occurred over the weekend. Four laptops had been stolen from unsuspecting students on campus. Three of these students live in Scanlon hall and the other student resides in Davis. That weekend also happened to be Family Weekend when there were many parents and friends who came to explore Westfield State. This allows for a lot of uncertainty because of the vast amount of people on campus, not to mention the amount of students who left campus for the weekend.

There are many theories as to what happened that weekend, and at this point in time they are still just that, theories. When asked about the incidents, Acting Chief Tony Casciano of Public Safety said that he couldn't at this time discuss too many details because this is still an ongoing investigation. However he does urge anyone who knows something to please come forward so that these student's property may be rightfully returned to them. Officer Casciano did say that there are no current leads at this time, though Public Safety is still trying to uncover the mystery of the thefts.

Although most of the thefts occurred at Scanlon hall, there was not a lot of communication between Resident Director of Scanlon Hall, Chaitali Brahmbhatt, and the students because most of the students went straight to Public Safety. However, she did have some tips as to how to keep these thefts from recurring. These tips are an accumulation from Casciano and Brahmbhatt:

• Always lock your doors: Even if you are only going down the hall, there are always people in the dorms who you do not know.

• Get some kind of safety device for laptops: At almost any computer retailer there are anti-theft systems, most about $20, which attach your computer to the desk so that it isn't going anywhere. Another thing that Public Safety is doing to help with the issues of the stolen laptops is offering "Operation Identification." This is a program where any student can bring their laptop to public safety and get it personally engraved with some form of ID so that if there were ever an incident, there is a good chance that it can be returned to its original owner.

• Communicate with your roommates: This particular step may seem like one which is used for getting to know one another, but safety is important too. Part of that is being able to communicate who and when people will be in your dorm room. Telling your roommates that they need to remember to lock the door or that you will be having friends over when they are not there is key to proper communication. This way there is no opportunity for theft to occur when one person thinks the room is locked and completely empty.

• Although you live in a dorm with hundreds of kids, you have to remember that you don't know all of them and all of their friends. It is very important that you become weary as to who is roaming around and seems out of place. Though they may be fellow Westfield State students, there is a chance that if you begin to raise questions then there will be less problems like this.

These are the main ideas to what needs to be done to make sure that Westfield State College remains the safe campus that we all know and love. Officer Casciano said, "We need to take a proactive approach and not a reactive approach to the safety on campus."

Just as you wouldn't leave the front door of your home wide open for anyone to walk into, you don't want to leave your home here at WSC open to everyone. All a thief needs is the desire, ability and opportunity and they will most certainly commit a crime. But take away the opportunity and we will be less likely to become the victims.

There are many ways to get a hold of Public Safety should you feel the need to do so. If you have any information or are have any problems with theft or the like, you are urged to call Public Safety at (413) 572-5262. Also other help is available by talking to any R.A. or R.D. of your resident hall.

Student-written musical to take Westfield by storm

Molly Coyle
Voice Reporter

Most college kids can barely manage to get out of bed every morning and go to class, but not senior Jessica Torone. Somehow, amidst all the normal chaos of college life, she managed to write an entire musical and is currently directing it as well.

For Torone, 21, "Guys Don't Talk About Love" started out as a senior honors project and will be performed later this semester.

"The point when I actually decided that I was going to do actually do it, I was sitting in an interview my senior year with this man from Harvard," said Torone. "I was explaining to him how I was involved in my high school musical that year and it was the most amazing experience of my life." His reply to that was, "Well, at Harvard, students write their own musicals." Torone's immediate thought was, "Why couldn't I do that anywhere?" And that is exactly what she did.

Torone's advisor, Professor Leah Nielsen said, "She's very talented, but also dedicated. It's a wonderful combination. We joke that she's crazy because I don't know another student who would have taken on so much."

For her future, Torone plans to apply to graduate schools and hopes to get into New York University's program for Musical Theatre Composition. "If I had the opportunity to go there, then I would love to write musicals for the rest of my life," she said.

An English Education major with a minor in music, Torone began writing her musical last summer and finished it in about a year, but continues to tweak it as issues with directing surface.

According to Torone, "Nothing is 'finalized' until after the show is performed."

Set in the 1950s, a time period Torone referred to as "classy," "Guys Don't Talk About Love" is a show about relationships. "I wanted my show to be set in a slightly modernized version of the time period because I think that would have been the ideal era. I chose this subject matter because I feel like at the point I started writing it and at this point in my life, relationships were, and are, a big deal. College is the time where people start finding the person they're going to marry and finding out what they're going to do for the rest of their life," said Torone.

This semester, the show will star Westfield's own senior, Nicole Franklin, senior Aaron Valente, freshman, Kelly Danner and senior, Jared Walsh.

The musical will premier at Westfield State College's Dever Auditorium on Thursday, November 1 through Sunday, November 4.



Washington Internships
General Interest Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 24th
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Great opportunity to learn how YOU can live and learn in Washington D.C.

Come to this general interest meeting to explore exciting internship opportunities!

Only a few of the possibilities
D.E.A, ATF, U.S. Marshal Service
The Smithsonian
White House
Environmental Protection Agency
The U. S. Treasury
INTERPOL
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LEARN ABOUT:
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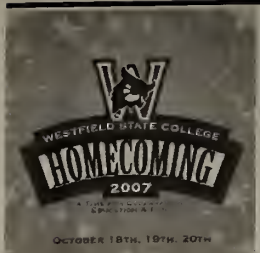
For more information
Contact the WSC Career Center
413 572-5206 CAREERS@wsc.ma.edu

Continued from Page 10

I could catch little bits of the lyrics at times, and in some songs, for example "Wait for Love", are very repetitive, but in some songs you can only catch bits of what he's singing about, and a lot of the time, the bits you might catch, still don't make total sense. The song "Rumors" is a good example of this: "Serenade me with rocks, love, No lullabies through the locks love, I locked myself in with the band, But the music's never loud enough." As I said before, this is one of my favorite songs, but for the life of me I can't figure out what it's about.

What I adore about this album, aside from the throwbacks to some of my favorite artists from earlier times, is how Ritter manages to throw in instruments and sometimes special effects where you would never expect them. You could be listening to a song, let's say "Next to the Last Romantic," that has a more country feeling to it with a steel guitar (and an amazing Bob Dylan sounding voice) and then all of a sudden you will hear what sounds like the soprano section of a church choir. The culture shock completely catches you off-guard, but it makes the song completely unique and always keeps it interesting.

Josh Ritter's amazing ability to grab so many spices off the proverbial musical spice rack and throw them all into a single stew can be a bit shocking at first to his samplers, but will leave you satisfied in the end. As for the issue with the lyrics, I recommend Googling them if it really bothers you (although they are a little hard to find.) Even if this entire album had no lyrics, it would still be worthwhile to listen to, just to hear what musical flavors he will throw together in the next song.



ALUMNI COLLEGE
OCTOBER 19, 2007

Westfield State College

P O Box 1630
Westfield MA 01086-1630

www.wsc.ma.edu

Art
ART IS LIFE! A DISCUSSION ON THE NATIONAL TEMPERA ART EXHIBIT Professor Jeremiah Patterson of the Hartford Art School will lead a discussion on the National Tempera Art Exhibit, which will be on exhibit from Oct. 3-27 in the Arno Maris Gallery. Artwork on exhibit will include that of Diane Savino '82, whose work will be featured in the exhibit, and Professor Faith Laird will host. *(10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. / Wilson Auditorium C)*

Communications
FLY HIGH! MEDIA AND COMMUNITY SERVICE Doug Meehan '87 speaks on his role as "Sky Fox", helicopter reporter for Fox 25 News in Boston, as well as his community service. Sponsored by the Class of 2010 *(9:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. and 10:25 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. / Ely 302)*

Computer Science/CIT
SECURITY ISSUES WITH COMPUTERS Professor Larry Griffith holds a review of this timely topic *(9:20 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. / Wilson 424)*

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF IT John Sarno '94, Retired Vice President of Information Systems, Big Y Foods, Inc. and 40-year veteran of the IT industry will discuss the past, present and future of the field. *(10:25 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. / Wilson 424)*

IDENTITY THEFT IN THE 21st CENTURY Matthew Cadieux '05 and William Dukhinos from Liberty Mutual Insurance discuss Identity Theft in the 21st Century. *(11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. / Wilson 424)*

Criminal Justice
THE UNSOLVED MURDER OF FORMER WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE PROFESSOR LOUIS ALLYN Mike McCartney (former chair of the Criminal Justice Department) discusses the murder of Professor Louis B. Allyn in 1940, which remains an open case to this day. *(8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. / 333 Garden Level Conference Room)*

WORKING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS Carles Canino '88 shares his work experiences. *(10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. / 333 Garden Level Conference Room)*

Economics & Management
SPEAKER AND TOPIC TBA *(9:00 – 10:30 a.m. / Dever Auditorium)*

Education
FIRST YEAR TEACHING EXPERIENCE: RECEPTION, PANEL AND PRESENTATION (sponsored by SNEA) The Student National Education Association (SNEA) will host a reception for former Education majors and former members, followed by an SNEA-sponsored panel presentation, "The First Year Teaching Experience" *(6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / New Residence Hall Conference Room)*

English
WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS Glen Brewster, Chair of the English Department and Retired English Professor Edgar Alward will present on Writing your Memoirs. *(8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. / Parenzo 208)*

Geography and Regional Planning
CLIMATE CHANGE VS. GLOBAL WARMING AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE Prof. Carsten Braun will present on Climate Change vs. Global Warming, followed by a presentation by Prof. Marquan Bull on Planning Considerations Related to Climate Change. *(11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. / Wilson Auditorium A)*

Movement Science
INSTRUCTIONAL CPR COURSE Movement Science Professor Ed Mello will give a two-hour instructional CPR course. *(10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. / Woodward Center Field House)*

ACL INJURY PREVENTION Movement Science Professors Mary Allen Watson and Lynn Pantuosco-Hensch will present on Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury prevention. *(8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. / Woodward Center Room 240)*

Political Science
DISCUSSIONS ON THE LEGAL FIELD (EXACT TOPIC TBD) Hon. Eduardo Robreno '67 and Hon. Terry Craven '73 will lead discussions on the legal field. *(10:25 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. / New Residence Hall 141A)*

Psychology
LOVE AND MARRIAGE Retired Psychology Professor Emeritus Bill Duval will lead this discussion. *(10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. / Private Dining Room)*

DIVERSE DIRECTIONS



"Amyrillis I" Lee Connely Weill

Alumni Art Show

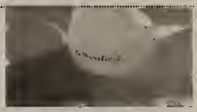
Artist Reception
-Square Gallery, 333 Western Avenue
-Thurs, October 18, 4-6pm

Alumni College-Show Runs October 5-27 2007

Locations
-Ely Library
-Woodward Lounge
-Square Gallery 333
-New Hall Multipurpose Room

Westfield State College

Sponsored by the WSC Foundation and the Arno Maris Gallery



2007 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Announced!
Author: Mickey Curtis
Contact Name: Mickey Curtis
Contact E-mail: mcurtis@wsc.ma.edu

Five former Westfield State standouts and a retired faculty member will be inducted into the college's Athletics Hall of Fame during the 2007 Alumni Weekend. The 12th annual inductions will be held Friday, Oct. 19, at 6:00 p.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall on the Westfield State campus. Dr. Edwin Abar, a faculty member from 1971-2004 and a major contributor to the WSC athletics program, is being enshrined along with Jack Dougherty '76, baseball; Jason Franklin '93, basketball; Steve Gaebel '89, cross country/track; Lisa Lebiecki '87, softball; and Tim Lightfoot '96, football. For more information, contact Mickey Curtis at 413-572-5433.

Aries (March 21-April 19)



Your pioneering and adventurous spirit will lead you in a new direction this week. Although not everyone will be as supportive as you might want them to be, stay confident and press on with what you believe in. You don't need to be rude, but make it understood that you are going to do whatever the hell you want to do and they can't stop you. Call them asses. Call them losers, but do it in a nice way (e.g. belittle their hairdos or something like that). Your ruling planet is Mars, dude. You are all powerful. You're on fire! How dare they think they can change your direction? Who are they to mess with your new direction! Ahhhh! Tell those weak, jealous jerks to shove it. And if they still keep f'ing with you...make them pay for it!

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



You are not stubborn. You're just persistent. There's a difference. But when it comes to relationships (especially with that Gemini or Leo you're mismatched with) you just might want to let it go. Venus ain't feelin' it no mo'. Give up this time. It's over. It's done. Bail out. You were never matched to start with. Remember that time they forgot something very special to you? Yeah.. Yeah... You know. You know exactly what I'm talking about. That was some messed up stuff, huh. You let it slide, right? Right? Well, these days crap is different. Venus is too hot for that!!! Do you know how close to the sun that mo' fo is? Number 2. If John Lithgow was in a funny sitcom about Venus instead of earth it would be called "Second Rock From the Sun". No, no, no. The answer is "no". From now on the answer to everything is "no" until it finally ends in occasional e-mails. Sorry. This is the real stuff right here. It's in the stars.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



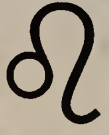
Venus in Virgo is really interesting. Especially when Pluto is in your Sagittarius house of partners. Go figure. You are surrounded by a good group of people right now. Try to date only a few of them, though. Not all of them. Maybe half. That way you can't be considered a complete prostitute. Also it creates a sense of wonder amongst the other half of your friends who will be curious from all the stories your partners have described to them. Make sure these stories are good enough though. In other words: Drink some Gen Sing before your dates so that you have enough energy to function during the date rather than being boring. It's in the stars for you.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



Yo, crab. Look for that Virgo, Aries or Taurus. It could mean romance. Just watch out for a Pisces or Taurus trying to screw you over. The funny thing is if the romantic interest you meet is a Taurus then they could also be the one that ends up screwing you over as well. For example here's how things might play out.
At the beginning of the week you meet Taurus "A". You fall in love and everything. Then by the end of the week said Taurus "A" tells you "You suck. I don't really like you." See?
Or it could go down like this:
You meet a beautiful Virgo. You fall deeply in love. You go on a few dates and touch each other and stuff. Then at the end of the week they tell you they aren't actually a Virgo at all, but are in fact a Pisces. Then they screw you over somehow.
Watch out. It's in the stars.

Leo (July 23-August 22)



Ahhh. You're older, but you don't look too bad. Your friends should get you a personalized birthday song. This is your week to shine. Everyone is feeling you this week. The cops may pull you over a few times, but that's only because there will be a big robbery about midweek in which you'll fit the description of several of the suspects. When you do get pulled over just laugh and joke with the coppers. They'll see your shine like everyone else does this week. Slap them on the back. Be extra friendly and touchy. It'll all work out for you. Other than that everything should be fine. Watch out for pit bulls though. There's a neighborhood dog that has the taste for you. It's got something to do with the ointment you wear on your anus. Towards the end of the week he may bark at you more than he's ever barked at anyone. If you don't know which dog this is you will know very soon. So, be extra careful. It's in the stars.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Mars, Saturn and Neptune, and, I think, the Sun all got together and at first they were just talking about how the moon was always hanging out in the seventh house, and about, like what he was always doing over there, especially very very late at night, and then Neptune was like: "You know who I hate more then the moon? Virgos." "Oh my God! Me too!," blurted out Saturn, "They really bother me, what with all that organization and sensitivity." Then the Sun had a downright evil idea, he had to stifle a menacing laugh as he asked the planets " Why don't we arrange ourselves in such a way that this week will be really awful for them." And they did. And this week will surely suck my sensitive Virgo friend.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)



This is important. This week you will have the strangest intuition that there is in fact an Al Quaeda sleeper cell within your neighborhood or apartment building. The reason you feel this way is that there in fact is an Al Quaeda sleeper cell within your neighborhood or apartment building. Be vigilante, yet don't offend anyone. They haven't actually done anything yet and it would be rude and politically incorrect to draw attention to them at this point. Call your friends and tell them what you think is going on, then hide within your residence whenever you can. If they leave the area at any point sneak into their residence and do some old fashioned sleuthing.

Continued on Page 16

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)



I know. You think your lover's cheating on you? Well, maybe you should reexamine the situation. Yeah. They did come back really late that one time. I know. I know. But perhaps they weren't lying about being at their friend's house after all. I know. I know. They called out someone else's name while making love to you last time. And it was a name for someone of the same sex. Yes, I know. All I'm saying is according to the stars everything should be fine. You have nothing to worry about, baby. Don't worry about it. The stars say everything is all right. Clinton taught us that that doesn't really mean anything. Right? Just relax. It's all good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Things are looking good in the work place. The boss is feelin' you. Your coworkers are lovin' your shine. Keep it up. You're on the right track towards wealth and world domination. Just make sure to keep your car washed. About mid week into the week this week birds will give you a serious dumping on. I mean they're gonna crap all over your car. It's important that you get it washed immediately so that the corrosive liquid doesn't eat into your paint job. When you get to the car wash make sure you empty all the change out of your car and remove anything valuable. Those guys washing your car this time, they're thieves. Seriously.

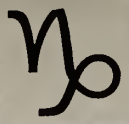
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Libra
Determine whether or not they have access to heavy water (an ingredient used in the creation of atomic weapons). How can you tell the difference between heavy water and regular water? Oh, you'll know the difference. Only cat piss could smell worse. If you discover they have sophisticated technology and ingredients, call the cops immediately. If they have simple weapons like box cutters and knives, wait it out. It's in the stars.

Sagittarius
They will make an attempt to steal something left behind. So don't leave anything behind. Don't answer any phone calls while this is going on. It's better to just hear tbe messages later in this situation. On the way home from the car wasb one of the car washers may try to follow you back. Drive at least the speed limit and you will easily lose him since he is only walking. Make sure to clean your bedroom also. You will have visitors. Plural.

Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 21)



Mars is crushing your whole thing right now. Patience is your most valuable asset at this point. Just stay patient. Everything should work out in the end, but then again it might not. If it doesn't. it will only be because you were too narrow sighted to look past certain obvious obstacles and see that pot of gold at the end. Or maybe you just smoked too much pot the whole time. Nobody knows how you feel, but you. So make sure you feel on everyone. Touch them. Caress them. It's okay. They want you to do it. But remember: During this entire ordeal, be patient. It's in the stars.

Aquarius
(Jan.22 - Feb. 18)



Leo is going to be your best friend right now. Things are looking good. With Leo's help and the Cancer sun chilling with your Uranus ruler like two homeboys in tbeir hood. Make that money! Run that show! Do yo' thang as the people say. This is the time. Those wacky, often laughed at ideas are going to work out this time. You'll be laughing at everybody in just a little while now. But don't laugh too hard. Have some compassion.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Marcb 20)



This week you should search for an unsuspecting Cancer. Search high and low. Go to the library. Go to the mall. Look everywhere. Once you find the right person be, extra mean. Throw food at them. Crash into their vehicle. Rob their house. Take their driver's license and commit identity theft to the max. Call their friends and tell them that they are a complete screw up. It's in the stars that you should do this. The astrological alignment of the planets encourages that this take place. Be vigilante. Do your duty.

HOROSCOPE PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.ASTROLOGY.ABOUT.COM

AND

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We are born at a given moment in a given place and like vintage years of wine we have the qualities of the year and of the season in which we are born. Astrology does not lay claim to anything else.

Carl G. Jung

"Hillary [Clinton] and Nancy [Reagan] have a lot in common -- they're both smarter than their husbands and both consulted the stars for guidance. Nancy with astrology and Hillary with Barbra Streisand."

Bill Maher

You can only predict things after they have happened.

Eugene Ionesco

I don't believe in astrology: I'm a Sagittarius and we're skeptical

Arthur Clarke

Sox strengths and weaknesses

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

During this post-season, even with a few losses, the Red Sox have been fairly dominant over their opponents. They have a capable pitching staff, big bats and some dirt dogs. However, those things can't always secure a win, as Red Sox Nation has seen in their few losses of the season.

Let's begin with their postseason strengths. For one, their starting pitchers and relievers have been doing a pretty stellar job.

Josh Beckett has shown that he can do amazing things with his pitches under pressure. This postseason he has proven that he is the ace of the staff. His control with his pitches, ability to fool hitters and ability to produce an out when it's crucial is what makes Josh Beckett a postseason asset for the Sox.

Jonathan Papelbon. Enough said. When he steps on that mound, it's game time. He is a fierce competitor every time he goes out to the mound. When the game is on the line, that is who Terry Francona wants on the mound to close out the game. Papelbon is just that good.

Another strength that the Red Sox possess is their offense. The middle of the order is filled with all stars that many pitchers don't want to face.

The heart of that Red Sox order is David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez and Mike Lowell. Those are the number three, four and five hitters in the lineup that pack the most punch. Ortiz and Ramirez have hit back to back homeruns this post-season, and so have Ramirez and Lowell. When they step up to the plate, anything can happen.

Their defense in the field is their third and final strength. The Red Sox were second in the league in defense during the regular season.

Two members of the infield have won Gold Glove awards in the past and a couple others are of possible Gold Glove caliber. Lowell and Varitek have won previous Gold Glove awards and continue to make remarkable plays to save runs and extra bases. This year's team has possible Gold Glove contenders in Pedroia. Youkilis and outfielder Coco Crisp. They have all made unbelievable plays that make fans say, "How did they do that?"

Now comes the time for the weaknesses. There is only one visible weakness that the Red Sox have, which proves to be good for them. His name is Eric Gagne.

Since his trade from Texas to Boston, Gagne just hasn't had his stuff. He pitched well for Texas but ever since he stepped on the mound at Fenway Park, something hasn't been right.

One thing is for sure, this off season will be interesting. Time will only tell what kind of off season moves Theo Epstein has in mind and who he wants to get for the 2008 season.

Editor's Note

Hello to all the sports fans on campus. It's going to be a very interesting few weeks with the Sox in the ALCS, and the Pats undefeated, so bare with us. We will try to get all of you, those on campus and off, the sporting news. In the mean time, Colby and I will be making weekly picks for the NFL season. I know we started a little late, but hey, better late than never. I'm sure it will be fun.

Jeff's picks week 7: Chiefs, Jaguars, Browns, Bears, Eagles, Ravens, Buccaneers, Packers, Cardinals, Patriots, Chargers, Saints and Giants.

Colby's picks: Bengals, Texans, Browns, Bears, Eagles, Ravens, Titans, Packers, Panthers, Patriots, Chargers, Saints and Giants.

Jeff Dale
Colby Henderson
Sports Editors

Westfield outlasts Framingham, 36-29

FRAMINGHAM - Fullback P.J. Malone's (Colrain, MA) one yard touchdown run with 1:28 remaining, and freshman C.J. Franklin's (Natick) 202 all-purpose yards and two touchdown catches proved to be the difference as Westfield State spoiled Framingham State's homecoming with a hard-fought 36-29 victory.

The win lifts the Owls to 3-3 on the season and 2-2 in New England Football Conference (NEFC) Bogan Division action, while the Rams fall to 2-4 overall and 1-3 in division play.

It was a wild game with plenty of action. Westfield led just 10-6 at halftime, while Framingham rallied from 17-6 and 29-21 second deficits. But the difference maker was Franklin, whose kickoff returns (3 for 118 yards) and receiving (4 for 84) sparked the victory.

Despite ending up on the losing end of the score, the Rams offense had a productive day as they amassed 446 yards of total offense (209 rushing and 237 passing), while the Owls offense picked 318 yards.

The Rams offense was led by a trio of sophomores. Sophomore quarterback Patrick Franey (Lexington, MA) entered the game in the second quarter and finished the day 14 of 19 for 180 yards, three touchdowns and no picks, while sophomore running back Shawn Miller (Tyngsboro, MA) picked up a season high 119 yards on 23 carries, including a 50-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Sophomore receiver Roland Gervais (Griswold, CT) made seven catches for 100 yards including two touchdowns.

Westfield State sophomore defensive back Josh Mathieu (Fitchburg, MA) picked off a Framingham pass with 14:11 remaining in the second quarter and returned it for a touchdown for a 7-0 lead that would last till just before the half when Franey and Gervais hooked up for their first touchdown of the day and after the point after attempt was wide right the Rams were within a point at 7-6 with 25 seconds remaining in the first half.

Franklin returned the ensuing kickoff 49 yards to the Rams 37 yard line to give the Owls good field position with 20 seconds remaining in the half. After a 27 yard pass completion from Dan Cohen (Wilbraham, MA) to David Benoit (Ludlow, MA), Tarlow attempted a 27 yard field goal for the Owls and made it to give them a 10-6 lead at the break.

The Owls took the opening kickoff of the second half and drove 43 yards in 4 plays capped by a 9 yard touchdown pass from Cohen to Franklin to extend their lead to 17-6.

The Rams offense would respond with a drive as their own as they went 65 yards in 4 plays to pull within 17-14 on Miller's touchdown run and a two point conversion from Franey to Gervais. On their next possession, the Rams would score again on a 3 yard pass from Franey to Gervais and an extra point by Ashley Baker (Mansfield, MA) to take their first lead of the game at 21-17.

In the fourth quarter Westfield State would add two more touchdowns on a Cohen two yard run and a 30 yard strike from Cohen to Franklin to take a 29-21 lead with just over seven minutes remaining in the game.

The Rams offense answered the Owls as Franey threw a 33 yard touchdown strike to Mark Piccioli (Ashland, MA). The Rams would go for two and once again Franey found Gervais in the end zone to tie the game at 29-29 with 3:47 remaining.

Franklin returned the ensuing Rams kickoff 32 yards and after a Framingham facemask penalty the Owls had the ball on the Rams 25 yard line. The Owls and drove the 25 yards on 5 plays and scored on a one yard touchdown run by P.J. Malone with 1:47 remaining. The key play in the winning drive was a third down reception to Scott McIntyre inside the 1-yard line for a first down.

The Rams had no comebacks left as Geoff Farrington (Belchertown, MA) forced Franey to fumble and Jay Fielding (Methuen, MA) recovered the ball for the Owls and the Owls ran out the clock. Fielding finished a spectacular day with a game high 21 tackles.

Patriots among NFL's undefeated

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

With the Sunday, Oct. 8 34-17 victory over the Browns the Patriots are among the NFL's undefeated, which includes the Colts and this Sunday's opponent the Dallas Cowboys.

Dallas barely squeezed by the Bills 25-24 to keep their record at 5-0 and to stretch the Patriots' divisional lead. With the Bills, Dolphins and Jets with a combined record of 2-13 on the season, New England could conceivably clinch the division by week nine.

Dallas will undoubtedly be the Patriots' biggest test of the season thus far. They're number one in total offense (429.6), and their quarterback, Tony Romo, is having an MVP-type season.

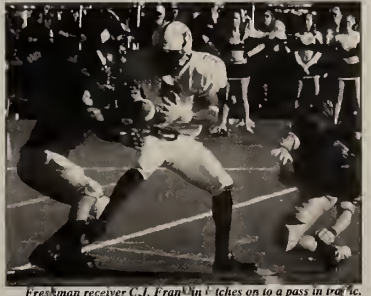
However, the Patriots are first in the league in points per game (36.4) and have an MVP candidate of their own.

Poster boy Tom Brady is on pace for his best season as a Patriot. He's number one in quarterback rating (128.7), touchdown passes (16) and completion percentage (74.1).

Brady's new arsenal of receivers are considered to be the biggest contributing factor to the great season he's having. Randy Moss has had a resurgence under the Belicheck regime, leading the league in receiving yards (551) and tied for the lead in touchdown receptions (7).

The game will be played in Dallas where the Patriots are 0-4 in the last four meetings there. However, the Patriots have not played in Dallas since the 1996 campaign, so in reality it's anybody's ball game.

It looks to be a high scoring affair with two of the best offenses in the league squaring off. Romo will be looking to come back from a game where he threw five interceptions and lost one fumble. The Patriots' defense will be looking to give him a repeat performance.



Freshman receiver C.J. Franklin catches on to a pass in traffic. Franklin had 202 all purpose yards and two touchdown receptions.

Wednesday, October 24

BE GREEN



GREEN FAIR - Ely Main Lounge

10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Learn about the impact of global warming.
- Find ways you can help.
- FREE homemade goodies.
- **WEAR GREEN** to get a free gift.
- Make a pledge and receive a ticket for the **Bike Raffle**.

SUSTAINABILITY DAY 2007

Owls sweep Elms on Senior Night

WESTFIELD - The Westfiled State women's volleyball team swept Elms College, 3-0 (30-11, 30-13, 30-24) in a non-conference volleyball game on Thursday, Oct. 11.

The Owls were led by senior Krista Grifoni of Peabody. In her final home game she recorded 12 service aces and nine digs. Senior Elissa Genereux had 20 assists and Morgan HOsking - the team's other senior - had five kills and four aces.

Freshman Lauren Sena of Montague totaled 10 digs, five kills, and two blocks. Sophomore Stephanie Bartkus contributed five kills, eight digs, and three aces.

Westfield returns to action this Saturday when it plays key conference games at Worcester vs. Framingham State and Worcester State.

Game Scores:
Game 1: Westfield State 30 – Elms 11
Game 2: Westfield State 30 – Elms 13
Game 3: Westfield State 30 – Elms 24

Westfield State – 9-9; Elms 6-10

Individual Statistics For Westfield State
Elissa Genereux of Belchertown: 20 assists
Krista Grifoni: 12 aces, 9 digs
Lauren Sena of Montague (Turners Falls): 10 digs, 5 kills, 2 blocks
Alyssa Thibodeau of Belchertown: 7 kills
Ashley Bergeron: 6 assists
Stephanie Bartkus: 6 kills, 8 digs, 3 aces
Morgan Hosking: 5 kills, 4 aces

Individual Statistics For Elms
Lindsay LaCoille of Ludlow: 10 digs
Jeannette Nunez: 9 kills, 3 blocks, 8 digs
Kimberly Phillips: 16 assists



Westfield State seniors Elissa Genereux, Krista Grifoni and Morgan Hosking were honored prior to their final home game on Thursday, Oct. 11, vs. Elms College



HIP-HOP: Beyond Beats and Rhymes takes an in-depth look at manhood in rap music and hip-hop culture—where creative genius, poetic beauty, and mad beats collide with misogyny, violence and homophobia. This groundbreaking documentary is a "loving critique" of certain disturbing developments in rap music culture from the point of view of a fan who challenges the art form's representations of masculinity.

WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
presents:

"An Educational Forum"

Documentary Viewing & Discussion

Thursday, November 15th, 2007
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Main Lounge
Ely Campus Center

Facilitated by: Dr. Carlton Pickron, Acadamic Achievement Department
and
Andrew Johnson, Campus Canter

Sponsors:

Latino Association For Empowerment (LAFE)
Third World Organization (TWO)
So Seductive Step Team
Acadamic Achievement Department (Academic Affairs)
Campus Programming (Student Affairs)

WWW.ITVS.ORG/OUTREACH



Strength Competition



Date: October 21, 2007
Time: 5 p.m.
Ely Wellness Center

Sign up for a weight-lifting competition consisting of a bench press and leg press at the service desk. Competition will be based on weight lifted divided by body weight.
Open to males and females!
Personal Training Available.
Call service desk to sign up: (413) 572-5500

Prizes!!!
For best 3 men and women!

1st - $50 gift certificate to Applebees
2nd - $25 gift certificate to Walmart
3rd - $10 gift certificate to Subway

#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445

Spring Break 2008. Sell Trips, Earn Cash and Go Free. Call for Group Discounts. Best Prices Guaranteed! Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, S. Padre, Florida. 800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com.

Fri 10/19	Alumni Art Exhibit 8 a.m to 11 p.m. 333 Garden Room AB	Field Hockey v. Eastern CT 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Alumni Turf	Kids Night Out 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Parenzo Gym
Sat 10/20	Gaming on the Big Screen 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Jostens- Class Rings 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ely Lobby 1	Men's Soccer Game v. Worcester 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Alumni Turf
Sun 10/21	Roman Catholic Noon Mass 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Chapel Upstairs	Patriots at Miami 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Bench Press Competition 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ely Wellness Center
Mon 10/22	I Drive Better When I'm Drunk... 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wilson Auditoriums B & C	Ballroom Dancing 6 p.m to 9 p.m. Woodward 230- Aerobics Room	Campus Activities Board 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Tues 10/23	Intramurals 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Campus Green	Rock Wall open to public 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Woodward Rock Wall	Students for Peace and Justice 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ely 302
Wed 10/24	Six Flags- Internship 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Poetry Reading- Ruth Ellen Kocher 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Scanlon Living Room	Men's Soccer Game v. WPI 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Alumni Turf
Thurs 10/25	Intramurals 4 p.m. to 8 p.m Campus Green	Mystery Night 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall A	Karaoke Night 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Ely Main Lounge

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime, all majors welcome!

Happy 22nd Birthday to our wonderful Business Manager, and Eryn's roommate, Randi Lucius!!! We love you!

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

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WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | October 26, 2007 | Issue VII

10 most disgusting Halloween candies

1. White Chocolate Maggots
2. Hose Nose
3. Sour Flush Candy
4. Harry Potter Cockroach Clusters
5. Fear Factor Candy
6. Poop Candy
7. Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Jelly Beans
8. Ear Wax Candy
9. Candy with Real Bugs
10. Lick your Wounds Candy Scabs

The "riots" for the Red Sox

ERYN CARTER
LAYOUT EDITOR

Sunday night started out like any other. Friends gathered together to watch a sports game, but this night was different; this was no ordinary game. This was Game 7 of the Red Sox v. Indians series. And this was no ordinary night because Westfield State expected a riot of grand proportions if the Sox lost. Because of that the Massachusetts State Police were called in. Eleven cars total and one K9 unit.

Sue Lamontange, VP of Student Affairs, said, "The State Police were here simply as a precaution. If something did happen, they would never have been able to make it here fast enough. We made it very clear to them that they were to stay where we told them to until we needed them."

As students anxiously and excitedly watched as the Red Sox won their second ALCS title in three years with an 11-2 win over the Indians, the police were getting prepared for a riot.

Students flocked to the Old Apartments courtyard in celebration. Students began cheering, chanting, crowd-surfing and participated in a group "hands-in" as one student that became known as 'God' called it. There was even a student celebrating in a full chicken suit. But where were the State Police during all of this? Standing in front of Parenzo waiting for something exciting to occur. In the courtyard with the students were a few ISO's, who also joined in the celebration, and a couple of Westfield State cops, along with many Student Security members.

When approached, many of the State Police would ask students "Has anything been set on fire yet?" or "Have students tried to flip anything?" One officer was even overheard saying, "This sucks. Let's go home." The riot lasted late into the night with police and student security doing nothing about it, except rejoicing the beloved Red Sox win. Many students felt that riots were just weak. Jeremy Bocko, a junior, said "It was funny to watch. It was kind of stupid because it took away the excitement for when we do win, but it was good. The police presence didn't effect me in the slightest. I didn't even notice them. I'm just nervous for what's going to happen if we win or lose."

Kerry Arouca, a sophomore, felt slightly different then Bocko. She said, "It was fun that the school showed spirit and managed to stay in control. The ISO's are really cool and it was a lot of fun."



Students flocked to the apartment courtyard for the festivities
Photo by Eryn Carter

Ashlee Hazeltine, a senior, was here when the 2004 riots occurred. She said, "I pretty much thought the riots were kinda lame -- I understand the point of gathering and celebrating, but what I don't understand why people feel the need to flash the crowd. That just shows drunkeness and lack of class on their part. As for the police presence, since there was no huge breakout like the 2004 riot, I guess they just served their purpose to make sure things didn't get out of hand. I had no problem with them there."

Lamontange was more than pleased with how to students celebrated.

"I was very pleased with how the students chose to gather. It was a very happy and joyful time and it was great to see how excited everyone was. I would like to personally thank the students for your overall behavior and I ask for the same cooperation during the World Series and to help keep each other out of trouble."

"The State Police will be more than likely be here again for the World Series, simply as a precaution. They will be assigned to a specific area and told not to be walking around near the students," Lamontagne said.

While the 2007 ALCS gathering at Westfield State was nothing like those riots of 2004 when the Sox beat the Yankees, who knows what will be in store for the World Series.

WSC slams the competition

ANDREW MARTIN
VOICE REPORTER

On Oct. 23, 2007 while most people were busy watching television, doing their homework, hanging out with friends or doing whatever college kids on any given weekday here do, two vans departed Westfield State College. The vans were heading to American International College filled with a couple professors, three slam poets, as well as several poetry slam fans. The Third Annual Greater Springfield Area Intercollegiate Poetry Slam took place and Westfield was sending a very talented team that ended up winning first place.

The top three finishers from the Poetry Slam that was held here made up the college's slam team. The team was, freshmen, Keyanna Fowler and Alan- Michael Chest and sophomore, Meaghan Brennan. They all gave very strong performances. They performed against American International College, Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College.

The poetry slam was set up differently at AIC then the one held here. Each college had a representative draw straws to get an assigned letter so the teams can be put into an order. After each team got a letter each poet got a number to get down to the specific order. "There were two rounds with an inter mezzo. Each poet performed once a round and during the inter mezzo there was guest slammers which included the Master of Ceremonies and a couple of judges.

All the performers did very well and it was very tough for the judges. The scores were very close. There were prizes for the first and second place teams. AIC had a very strong team with excellent poems and great performances that won them second place. Westfield State's Brennan lead off for the entire evening and throughout constant mix- ups from the M.C. had help from Fowler and Chest, who also gave over the top performances that were clearly more edgy than the other performers.

Fowler led all performers on the evening with points. These young poets were able to capture first prize on the evening with their grasp on the written word.

So, while you were in your room doing your own thing because it was a normal, everyday, hum-drum Tuesday; two vans left Westfield State College and three students helped win a title for the school. No matter how small it may seem and regardless if you had heard of it before this article: Westfield State College is the winner of the Third Annual Greater Springfield Area Intercollegiate Poetry Slam.

Check out pictures from the riots Pages 9 & 10

Nap for medical purposes!! Page 3

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Meehan flying high after Westfield State

Colby Henderson
Sports Editor

For Doug Meehan, '88 a WSC alumni, returning to Westfield State always brings a smile to his face.

Meehan was able to experience that excitement this past weekend as he, along with a handful of other alumni, were invited back to the college to participate in Alumni Weekend activities and speak to certain classes.

Meehan, who has found success as the helicopter reporter for the Fox25 morning show based in Boston, enjoys returning to Westfield for the memories that this school brings back. Meehan returned to Westfield on Friday morning Oct. 19th and spoke in two of Professor John Paulmann's communications classes.

A Yarmouth, MA native who lived in Lammers hall for two years and the Senior Apartment complex for two years, feels the best part of returning to Westfield is the smell. Meehan said, "I love it. I love seeing old friends and seeing new students. The little things, like the smell of the campus pine trees, which remind me of Westfield."

Prior to working for FOX25, Meehan worked in Dallas, Tampa, Austin, Hartford and Providence as well as a special assignment reporter for WHDH 7 news in Boston. Meehan began as a Criminal Justice major at WSC and then moved to Communications with a journalism concentration. He credits Professor John Paulmann for helping him realize what is possible in life and credits his spirit as a huge inspiration. He also believes the school has gone through a tremendous physical change since he has left and believes it makes an alumnus proud.



photo courtesy of Fox 25

Meehan also went on to say, "I hope the student life and experience has remained the same as it was when I was around. I enjoyed the relationships I built with professors, students, and faculty and hope that bond is still forming today."

One of Meehan's most memorable moments at Westfield came when he was an orientation leader back in 1985 and in between sessions the leaders would stay in Scanlon and formed a tight bond that remains in his heart to this day.

In April 2007, sporting a Westfield State hat, Meehan ran the Boston Marathon to raise awareness for breast cancer. Meehan started, "Doug's Run" for breast cancer research in hopes to raise money and awareness after his close friend, Jeanie O'Toole, was diagnosed with the disease. Meehan is active in the community and enjoys volunteering and helping out local charities.

The biggest advice Doug can offer to students who are looking to become journalists or reporters is to be persistent.

"Show up and be willing to do anything they ask you to do." Meehan added, "The one door that may be open may be the right opportunity."

Choose to Excel

64.4%

Most Westfield State College students drink once a week, less often, or not at all.

ALCOHOL – CHOICES
A.C.E.
EDUCATION

Source: 2007 Spring, Core Survey. 699 randomly selected Westfield State College students.

Editor's Desk



Not much to report this week except living in the library, like every other student here, studying for midterms, writing papers and trying not to go crazy.

There have been a few changes on staff. Managing Editor, Eryn Carter, due to time contstraints, is no longer able to take on the post, so Jenn Krok, Associate Editor, has stepped up and will be taking over Eryn's position. Eryn is still helping out a lot being the new Layout Editor.

Here's a quote to end this week's Editor's Desk:

"When you were a kid, it was Halloween candy. You hid it from your parents and you ate it until you got sick. In college, it was the heavy combo of youth, tequila and well, you know... Take as much of the good as you can get because it doesn't come around nearly as often as it should. 'Cause good things aren't always what they seem. Too much of anything, even love, is not always a good thing."

[Grey's Anatomy]

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Red Sox going to the World Series!!! (and the riots that come after each game)



Midterms

A nap might give your heart a rest

Susan Brink
Los Angeles Times

The next time the boss finds you leaning back in your chair, feet up, eyes shut, tell her that you're napping for medical purposes.

Science won't definitively back you up yet, but the evidence is mounting that a short afternoon nap, for an otherwise well-rested, healthy person, is good for the heart. "I love to nap," says Dr. Robert Downey III, chief of sleep medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Southern California. "I recommend napping."

Among his fellow researchers, it's still controversial whether napping has cardiovascular benefits. Early studies of possible heart benefits of siestas in Mediterranean and Latin American countries, where short afternoon naps are typical, have had mixed results. But a recent large study of 23,000 people in Greece, published in the Feb. 12 Archives of Internal Medicine, showed a 37 percent reduction in heart attacks among people who napped at least three times a week for a minimum of 30 minutes. That study was the first to weed out sick and sedentary nappers and control for physical activity and diet, which might have colored results of other studies showing no benefit.

Now a study, in the Oct. 15 online edition of the Journal of Applied Physiology, offers a clue about why a nap might be good.

The new study tested nine healthy volunteers who did not usually nap. After sleeping for four hours the night before, each was hooked up to check for blood pressure under three conditions. In two sessions the volunteers relaxed, one time standing and once lying down, but didn't sleep. In the third session, the subjects fell asleep for no more than an hour.

The researchers found a significant drop in blood pressure when the volunteers slept, but not when they merely relaxed. And the drop in blood pressure when they napped occurred in that sleepy window of time right before falling asleep, not during the nap itself.

It's the brief period of anticipation of the coming snooze where cardiovascular benefits take place. Just lying awake, even if relaxed, doesn't do the trick, says Greg Atkinson, chronobiologist with the Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences at Liverpool John Moores University, and an author of the study.

That makes sense to Downey. "Anything you gain in (a restful state) would be magnified by going to sleep," he says. But he cautions that for a nap to result in increased alertness, it probably should last 20 to 30 minutes.

"With a light nap, you get that soothing, biological benefit, but you don't have to fight your way back to consciousness," he says. That's because brain waves slow considerably as you get drowsy, more so when you sleep. But after about 30 or 40 minutes, the brain goes into still-deeper sleep, and waking can make a person feel more groggy than rested.

Younger children, and adults who are sleep deprived, go into deeper states of sleep quicker, so a short nap for them might be more likely to result in a groggy awakening. And insomniacs are generally advised not to nap, Downey says, to give them a better shot at sleeping at night.

Inadequate sleep -- seven to eight hours is recommended for the average adult -- as well as disorders such as sleep apnea are pervasive in American society, and people who feel sleepy throughout the day should talk to their physician, says Michael Twery, director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. "If sleepiness is affecting what they do, controlling their lives, or if they wake up with morning headaches, maybe they need a medical evaluation," he says.

But for healthy people who get a good night's sleep, the human circadian clock is set to want a brief nap in the early afternoon. It feels good, and it just might be good for the heart, to indulge that post-lunch loss of energy. Go ahead. Put your feet up and close your eyes.

How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

CAREER BUSTERS
or
How to Sabotage your career regardless of grades, degree or experience!

Myspace, FACEBOOK, cell phone bills, JBoard – familiar terms? Wondering what these have to do with your career? Take notice, these things matter more than you think.

"The latest statistics from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) show that almost 80 percent of the companies surveyed are conducting background checks on potential employees" (NEHRA, Fall 2007). Employers are now checking social networks and credit bureaus along with the traditional on and off campus background checks. Employers are reviewing these for internships as well as full and part-time employment.

A recent article on CareerBuilder.com, Warning: Social Networking Can be Hazardous to Your Job Search, warns: "That cute, affable guy who brags of his drunken exploits on Facebook.com may be meeting a lot of other partiers online, but he's probably not getting added to the 'friends' lists of many corporate recruiters. A recent study by the executive search firm ExecuNet found that 77 percent of recruiters run searches of candidates on the Web to screen applicants; 35 percent of these same recruiters say they've eliminated a candidate based on the information they uncovered" (Kate Lorenz, CareerBuilder.com Editor, 24/09/2007)

"You'd be surprised at what I've seen when researching candidates," says Gail, a recruiter at a Fortune 500 company who recently began looking up potential hires on the Web.

"We were having a tough time deciding between two candidates until I found the profile of one of them on MySpace. It boasted a photo of her lounging on a hammock in a bikini, listed her interests as 'having a good time' and her sex as 'yes, please.' Not quite what we were looking for."

"Another time I went to a candidate's site and found racial slurs and jokes," Gail continues. "And there was yet another instance where a candidate told me he was currently working for a company, yet he left a comment on a friend's profile about how it 'sucked' to be laid off, and how much fun it was to be unemployed!"

Students are encouraged to think carefully before posting information that might damage their employment prospects.

Think twice before engaging in reckless behavior on and off campus. Don't let a night of Red Sox celebration tarnish an otherwise clean slate. Be careful with consumer credit. Delinquent cell phone, car and student loans can come back to haunt you. When posting online, use caution and monitor what your friends' post that might include you!

Kate Lorenz concludes with the following advice:

"Not all employers search candidates and employees online, but the trend is growing. Don't let online social networking deep-six your career opportunities. Protect your image by following these simple tips:

1. Be careful. Nothing is private. Don't post anything on your site or your "friends" sites you wouldn't want a prospective employer to see. Derogatory comments, revealing or risqué photos, foul language and lewd jokes all will be viewed as a reflection of your character.
2. Be discreet. If your network offers the option, consider setting your profile to "private," so that it is viewable only by friends of your choosing. And since you can't control what other people say on your site, you may want to use the "block comments" feature. Remember, everything on the Internet is archived and there is no eraser!
3. Be prepared. Check your profile regularly to see what comments have been posted. Use a search engine to look for online records of yourself to see what is out there about you. If you find information you feel could be detrimental to your candidacy or career, see about getting it removed -- and make sure you have an answer ready to counter or explain "digital dirt."

If you have any questions about these matters, feel free to contact your Career Center at careers@wsc.ma.edu or (413) 572-5206.

Maureen McCartney
Director
WSC Career Center

LAFE celebrates:

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS "DAY OF THE DEAD"

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 1ST, 2007

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THOSE PASSED.

WHERE: THIRD WORLD ROOM
TIME: 5 P.M.

LEARN THE TRADITION & RITUALS...AND SO MUCH MORE!!

JOIN US FOR THE FUN AND BRING A FRIEND

New Hampshire for Hillary

Internship Application Winter 2007

Do you want to help Hillary Clinton make history and become our 44th President?
Do you want to learn how the political process works firsthand?
Do you want to make a difference in 2008?

If you answered **YES** to any of those questions, then you need to be in **NEW HAMPSHIRE** interning for Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Interns will have the opportunity to experience the excitement that is the first primary in the nation to determine the next President of the United States. The program is intended to provide knowledge, skills, and experience that each intern can apply to future challenges and professional pursuits.

The Winter Internship in 2007-2008 with Hillary Clinton will begin December 17 and end January 11. Dates are flexible depending on when individual schools let out and travel time. Expectations will be high of those interns hired by the campaign, and the internship will have the same responsibilities, expectations, and schedule associated with a full-time campaign position.

The following must be returned with a completed application in order for an internship candidate to be considered:

- ✓ Current version of resume
- ✓ An unofficial academic transcript
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation from people who are not related to internship candidate
- ✓ A brief statement of one page or less outlining why you would like to intern for the campaign

Completed applications with all appropriate supporting documents should be returned to Jennifer Paolino at the following address or e-mail it to jpaolino@hillaryclinton.com: Jennifer Paolino, Hillary Clinton for President, 34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH 03101.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Date:

Permanent Mailing Address:

City: State: ZIP:

Email: Cell Phone:

Start Date: End Date:

☐ I have a car (check if yes). ☐ I will need housing (check if yes).

EDUCATION

College/University:

Major: Minor:

Graduation Date: GPA:

☐ This Internship is for credit (check if yes).

If your internship is for credit, it will be your responsibility to supply the internship supervisor with all the appropriate paperwork and guidelines to fulfill the requirements stipulated by your school.

CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

☐ I have volunteered or worked on a previous campaign (check if yes).

If you answered "YES," please detail your campaign experience including the name of the candidate, the office sought, the year of the election, the location of the election, and your duties on the campaign:

Name of Candidate:

Office Sought:

Year of Election:

Location of Election:

Describe Your Duties:

I am interested in the following areas of campaigning (check all that apply):

☐ Field Organizing / Get Out The Vote ☐ Operations ☐ Political ☐ Communications

Paid for by Hillary Clinton for President

Voices Overheard

What are you going to be for Halloween?



Matt McGrath
Class of 2008
Business

"Peyton Manning... Go Colts!"



Emily Goodwin
Class of 2008
Communications

"A green monkey from the Legends of the Hidden Temple!"



Colby Henderson
Class of 2009
Communications

"Elwood Blues from the Blues Brothers."



Jeff Dale
Class of 2009
Communications

"My girlfriend and I are going to be scare-crow and Dorothy."

Compiled by Jenn Krok

It's too darn hot!!!



KRISTI MIENTKA
VOICE COLUMNIST

Temperatures this month have been in the 60s, 70s and even 80s. The new sweaters I've bought for fall still hang unworn in my closet. The air conditioner in my car has continually been set at full blast. Walking across campus on a sunny day leaves me feeling sweaty and thirsty.

Some people are enjoying the unseasonably warm weather.

"It's so nice!" I've heard friends and classmates exclaim. "It's like living in Florida!"

But the reality is, it's not so nice. Climate change is a problem that is very real. And it's one that's not going to go away.

A couple weeks ago, it was announced that Al Gore and his team were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," which addresses the serious issue of climate change.

But other than Gore, who urges us all to help stop global warming? Not very many people have stepped up and championed the cause.

The U.S., in fact, is one of the only nations in the world that has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement that is set in place to help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases as a response to climate change. Not to mention, we're also the biggest user of fossil fuels in the developed world.

The reason so many people refuse to address this problem is because we are so dependent on our cars, our computers and other things that run (directly or indirectly) on fossil fuels.

Think about it. Over the past century humans have experienced some dramatic advances in technology. Some of them—like medicine and computers—have made our lives exponentially easier. And some—like the automobile—although they have undeniably made things easier, have also done tremendous harm to the planet.

When we drive our gas-guzzling SUVs, we are pouring greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. When we take 30-minute showers, leave our laptops on when we're not there, forget to turn off the lights and even charge our iPods, tons and tons of pollutants from power plants are being pumped into the air.

The earth is heating up.

Campus Sustainability Day addresses these issues as they relate, on a smaller scale, to the WSC campus. It shows us that it's up to our generation to do something about this and how we can help create a better environment through the use of sustainable energy.

Using sustainable energy is just one way we can help stop this growing threat. With solar or wind power we can eliminate the need for burning fossil fuels by getting our energy from natural sources. With cars that run on hydrogen—seemingly a distant reality, yet it is possible—we can stop burning gasoline.

The grim truth—which so many people refuse to acknowledge, is this: The days of our planet may be numbered.

The great Kurt Vonnegut once wrote, "If people insist on living as if there's no tomorrow, there really won't be one."

He's right. If we continue down the road we're on, our planet may not survive for much longer.

Think about the footprint you're leaving on the earth with your everyday activities. Do you want the earth to go down the drain? Or do you want it to be around for your kids, and their kids, and so on?

It's your call. Act now.

Britney Spears loses custody, Lindsay Lohan is out of rehab and Al Gore wins the Noble Peace Prize?



CAITLIN PENNDORF
OPINION & EDITORIAL EDITOR

Oh Britney, or should I say "Unfitney" as she's been called over the past few weeks. As you probably all know, Britney Spears has been dealing with a custody battle over her two young children for quite some time now and surprise, surprise, it's all over the media.

I'm the first to admit, I'm a total celebrity gossip junkie. I revel in hearing about Lohan rehab stints and Brangelina fights, but lately. I feel that many sources of media have a larger focus on celebrity news, rather than news that's well, worth reading about.

We all remember when blonde bombshell Anna Nicole Smith died. She saturated news stations like CNN all day. I was literally shocked when I was flipping through the channels, and couldn't find anything unrelated to her death.

It was a juicy gossip that we grasped on to, devouring every bite that the media fed us. And who can forget Paris Hilton's prison visit over the summer? It was a topic that everyone had an opinion about. Some were extremely enthusiastic about sending her to jail, while others worried that she wouldn't make it in the slammer. I recall hearing Barbara Walters talk about how Paris had all these plans of ways she wanted to give back when she was released. So far, we've seen Paris party and go to clubs. She may not be giving back as she had said she would, but at least she's giving us something to talk about!

While we have been hearing a lot about celebrity mishaps at least there are some stars that can still be referred to as "role models". Take Ben Affleck for instance. He's recently directed a movie, "Gone Baby Gone," that was released on Friday. He's been seen doing interviews and getting credit for his accomplishments. It's so refreshing to see someone being recognized for something other than a DUI.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

Another star people can't stop gushing about is America Ferrera. She's a positive role model for females of all ages. Her movie, "Real Women Have Curves" and television hit, "Ugly Betty," show females that you should embrace how you look and your differences because in the end, that's what's going to make you shine.

We cannot escape celebrity news. We can only take it in along with "real" news, like about that guy, oh what's his name again? Oh yes! President Bush. So between the Jennifer Lopez pregnancy rumors and Pam Anderson's hundredth marriage, don't forget to check out things that have a little more affect on our lives, such as the 2008 Presidential election. And trust me, if you're looking for some back stabbing and a good scandal, this Presidential Election is looking like the place to find it.

Happy 21st Birthday Justin!!!

Love, Eryn *and* all the rest of your "girlfriends" in 3c3

Achoo Syndrome



Erin E. Ethier

Psychology Columnist

"I fear one day I'll meet God, he'll sneeze and I won't know what to say."

Every time I go outside on a sunny day, with no exaggeration, I will sneeze up to three times. My friends and family are so used to it that they will say "bless you" before I even sneeze! But without a doubt, it happens every time. At first I thought it was just a weird reaction and didn't think much of it. However, I recently researched this odd reaction and it turns out it is a genetic condition sometimes called the "Achoo Syndrome" or the "Photic Sneeze Reflex" (Karran).

R. Eecles of the Common Cold and Nasal Research Group found that "18 to 35 percent of the population" sneeze when there is a source of bright light, such as the sun. When a bright source of light stimulates nerves in our body, our brain sends signals to our iris to expand. This is a normal reaction so that we can continue to see in lit areas. However, people with Photic Sneeze Reflex also get signals to the sneeze reflex, caused by a "leak into the Optic Nerves" (Eccles). With all of this research, scientists are still not sure what causes this condition.

There is an abundance of information on Photic Sneeze Reflex regarding the exact nerves and chemicals that are stimulated; this is just a summary. For reasons scientists aren't sure of, this syndrome occurs more in Caucasians than any other race. There is a "50:50 chance of passing the achoo gene" to the children of people with this condition (MedicineNet). Although this syndrome isn't really a hindrance in my life, it's interesting that there is actual medical research on sneezing from bright light.

MRSA Infections: Should Westfield be concerned?



Caitlin Penndorf

Opinion & Editorial Editor

"Schools in Several States Report Staph Infections, and Deaths Raise the Alarm", "Infection spurs Wentham school cleanup"....It may just be me, but when I see headlines like this in The New York Times and The Boston Herald, I can't help but do a double take.

The country is now dealing with an alarming reality: Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureas, or more simply put, MRSA. According to an article in The New York Times, "MRSA is a strain of staph bacteria that does not respond to penicillin or related antibiotics, though it can be treated with other drugs."

The bacteria has already affected many young people in the country, with an emphasis on athletes. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health website states that "staph, including MRSA, are spread by direct skin-to-skin contact, such as shaking hands, wrestling, or other direct contact with the skin of another person. Staph are also spread by contact with items that have been touched by people with Staph, like towels shared after bathing and drying off, or shared athletic equipment." Officials have said that washing your hands and keeping things clean is one way to prevent the bacteria from showing up.

Since this form of bacteria is easily transmitted and seems to be showing up in schools around the country, I decided to ask students here at Westfield State how they felt about the sudden increase of cases and what they felt could be done around campus to decrease the likelihood that there will be an outbreak.

Teresa Dollfuss is a sophomore at Westfield State and resident on campus. She said that the recent outbreaks of MRSA "scare her" and feels that sanitation at Westfield could be updated in some parts, mainly, the dorm bathrooms. "People pour stuff out in the sinks and stuff and the shower walls are kind of slimy," Dollfuss said.

Sarah Farrell, another resident at Westfield State agrees with Dollfuss. "I feel that the sanitary conditions are really bad in our dorm this year...I don't even like going to the bathrooms here anymore, I get really grossed out," Farrell said.

While viewing the bathroom Farrell spoke of, I noticed the sinks were filled with substances that appeared to be toothpaste and food and the floors were covered with water that had escaped from the shower and piles of toilet paper that had built up in each stall. It wasn't exactly the image I pictured when I thought of the word "clean".

Farrell said she feels that one step to helping make things cleaner and hopefully reducing the spread of any type of bacteria would be to have soap in all of the campus bathrooms. However, it will also take help from students to try and keep bathrooms clean and sanitary. I mean, how hard is it to rinse out a sink?

While cleanliness is one way to prevent an MRSA or other type of staph/bacterial infection, there are other things you can do as well. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health outlines a few other prevention tips, such as making sure cuts are cleaned and bandaged until healed and steering clear of sharing "towels, washcloths, toothbrushes and razors" and other personal items.

To break it down even more, just remember, a clean dorm is a happy and healthy dorm.

Growing up v. Sara Charbonneau



Sara Charbonneau

Voice Columnist

I don't know when it happened. Or how it happened for that matter. But suddenly, I feel like I've grown up.

I was sitting at my apartment last night sans all human contact since the boyfriend is home in the Berkshires for the week, and as I sat down at the computer to pay my bills, I realized: I've suddenly become an adult. Not the "I just turned 18 so technically I'm an adult" feeling, but the real, true, bill and rent paying, grocery shopping, having my own cell phone plan, being completely financially independent from my parents feeling. It's really a weird feeling when I look around my apartment and realize that at 21, this is all mine (well, and some of it is my boyfriend's but whatever). I am financially responsible for all (most) of this. And frankly, that's scary! Knowing that in just a few months I'll walk across a stage on the quad and get a diploma, is just mind blowing. I remember back my senior year of high school when everyone was discussing where they wanted to go to college, and now the majority of us are going to be graduating, getting jobs and becoming actual adults.

I also don't know when everyone started getting married and having kids, but all of a sudden I have about six weddings to go to in 2008 and everyone's having children. I guess that's the weirdest part. Not so much the getting jobs, because everyone's always known they had to get one eventually, but the getting married, buying houses and having kids. I look at my co-worker Kate, 26, who just got married in September and is looking to buy a house... my friend from high school just had a baby... my best friend Kelly got married in June and her husband just bought her a puppy to shut her up about having kids. Yeah, that's definitely the weirdest part. When a good friend from high school is suddenly a mother and you're no longer talking about what karaoke bar you want to go to tonight, but breast-feeding and diaper rashes. When your best friend is suddenly no longer engaged or no longer has a boyfriend, but has a husband. When nights out with coworkers go from talking about how cute the bartender is to property taxes and whether or not that marble tile would be good in a bathroom. All of a sudden, I feel about 35 years old.



Illustrated by Kellie Veiga

Growing up. It's a bizarre phenomenon when you actually realize it's occurring right before your eyes. In between the coupon cutting, the midterms and finals, the getting job and the relationships, out of the blue the future is the past and you're left with the thought of "What the hell just happened??" Where did the past three months go?? Hell, where did the past three YEARS go?? When did they allow me, Sara Charbonneau, to become a SENIOR?? Did they know this was going to happen?? Do they realize that after this year, I have to actually start paying all these loans back?? It's crazy, and all of these changes are just the beginning.

Minus the Bear
Planet of Ice

Dan Sullivan
A&E Columnist

You have to admire a band that has released its entire eight-release discography on obscure indie labels and still achieved a sort of pseudo-popularity. While it is entirely possible you have no idea who this band is, it is also entirely possible the person sitting next to you does—Minus the Bear has been something of a well kept secret of the indie rock subgerre, until now; they were recently awarded MTV's "Buzzworthy" status, and I even caught "Pachuca Sunrise" playing in a local department store, presumably when management wasn't paying attention.

On "Planet of Ice", released Aug. 25, the band seems to have taken that step all indie bands who achieve modest success eventually feel they must—taking themselves more seriously. Gone are patently absurd and self-indulgent song titles like "Absinthe Party at the Fly Honey Warehouse," "Just Kickin' It Like a Wild Donkey," and (my personal favorite) "Houston We Have Uh-Oh." Missing is singer Jake Snider's usual bachelor's-version-of-utopia musings about gorgeous women and endless booze. This time around we get a little more philosophical insight about relationships, as Snider sings on "Knights, [It's usually so typical/a piece of you for a piece of me.] Not exactly Nietzsche, but it's a bold leap for a band whose name is a crude in-joke (think the 80's BJ and the Bear, but "minus the bear," get it?).

Minus the Bear's shtick sounds something like a chemical reaction between Braid's "Frame and Canvas", Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon", and Pele's "Enemies", topped off with a modest heaping of electronica influence and some pretty assailing guitar parts to boot. The band has previously relied on heavy syncopation and odd time signatures to keep the formula on its toes, but here, the dance sensibility formerly lurking below the surface has taken center stage. The record in general is more electronic and atmospheric, while still feeling unmistakably like themselves. This is no small feat—trying a style maturation while still retaining your distinctive voice is the event that generally sinks most would-be-huge bands trying to come out of the shadows.

"Planet of Ice" is definitely one of those albums that needs to be listened to as an album. The songs all sort of merge to become one free flowing track that takes you in and out of the record like a self-contained road trip. Once again, a pretty lofty ambition for a group of guys who named half the songs on 2002's "Highly Refined Pirates" after quotes from the Casper Van Dien film "Starship Troopers". Standout tracks include the opening "Burying Luck," the patently uncharacteristic "Ice Monster" and the frenetic, yet subdued "Throwin' Shapes." Problem is, there's not a lot of stand-alone tracks that really have the packed-in punch that many of the songs on 2005's Menos El Oso did. The album works as a whole, but there really aren't as many songs worth raving about individually—surely a bad sign for the iPod generation that will inevitably become the core of their audience if MTV's "Buzzworthy" buzz doesn't turn into an uncomfortable paranoia—as it so often does for prolific bands that flirt with commercial success only to wind up being labeled "one hit wonders" despite having more releases than Billy Joel has ex-wives.

The best of the bunch here is probably "When We Escape," a low-fi and raw sort of faux-ballad that explodes into a chaotic frenzy of syncopated guitars and supersonic drum sounds, and comes around full circle just as quickly. There's a hint of poetry in the air when Snider croons, "you must be an illusion" as the chorusless song's decided hook. You hear it enough that it sort of becomes a motif. Maybe there's hope that a guy who once named a song "Thanks For the Killer Game of Crisco™ Twister" can discover that brevity might actually be the soul of wit after all.

Thursday November 1st
Aviation Day!
at Westfield State College
10:30AM-4PM
Flight Simulator
Business/Economics Department
Flight Management
Free Prizes!
$50 Tavern Restaurant
$25 Applebee's
$25 WalMart
5 $10 Subway Cert.
Ely Campus Center





Protestant Chaplain's Column

Truman and Estella, an older couple in my parish, had invited me for dinner. I was expecting to hear, "Pastor, will you offer the blessing?" when Truman took me by surprise,

"Let us pray," he said.

"Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these thy gifts to us be blessed."

I was the guest at Truman's table on many other occasions. Always the same prayer respectfully prayed.

Truman taught me that it isn't the complexity of a prayer, its originality, or who is praying. What was and is important is that time is taken and words are spoken with sincerity.

The Come Lord Jesus also reminds me of the importance of inviting Jesus to be present as if he is our guest and being appreciative of the good we have in life.

Over the years there have been others who have uttered similar and simple prayers in my presence. People who I have deeply admired and who lifted up their prayer as relevant to God.

I am an advocate for prayer and remembering that prayers do not need to be unique, fancy or long.

Pausing at a mealtime and quietly offering a prayer helps to make the moment sacred and reminds us to take the time to appreciate what we are eating and with whom we may be eating.

Pausing to say a prayer before a test, calms the mind and helps one to focus. Yes, taking a few quiet breaths may have the same affect. However, focusing on the words draws our minds to a different place and can help to calm nerves. Of course, it will not result in a miracle if you are ill-prepared. Prayer at such a time simply helps a person to do the best they are capable of. Incidentally, if you choose to offer up a prayer before a test, remember then to answer the easiest questions first and the hardest last. As your mind draws deeper and deeper in by gradual moves to the more difficult, the better it becomes.

This isn't to denigrate those who have more extensive prayer routines, rather, this is a reminder that prayer can be simple and to the point. Just pray.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. Sadly for the next few weeks I will not be available since I will be participating in a continuing education event. However, Father Dean and Rabbi Joyce are more than capable of assisting. Incidentally, you are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue. Worship takes place whether or not the minister/chaplain is present, because Christ is always present wherever two or three are gathered.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

Go 'baby' go!

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: A

And in the category of 'Best Director,' the Oscar goes to.... Ben Affleck? It might sound absurd to anyone who hasn't seen Affleck's directorial debut "Gone Baby Gone", but he sure has my vote.

"Gone Baby Gone" is a dark and gritty depiction of Boston's seedy underbelly. At its core, it is a film about a private detective (played by the extraordinary Casey Affleck) attempting to find a missing child. Beyond that, the film is about so much more. Including when one should do the right thing and the vague notion of what that 'right' thing is.

The screenplay is based on a novel by Dennis Lehane, who also penned *Mystic River*. There are similar themes here including child abduction and the setting of Boston (this time with, thankfully authentic Boston accents). What sets this film apart is its technical execution, utterly fantastic performances, thought-provoking story and its sense of urgency.

With that technical prowess and urgency comes some of the most heart-pounding sequences I have ever seen on film. The rush of fear and excitement experienced during visceral spouts of action peppered throughout the film is nothing short of overwhelming. Much of the reason for this is Harry Gregson-Williams' unrelentingly powerful score. At times it consists of a single, hauntingly moving piano. At others, a full orchestra serves to punctuate the intensity of what's happening on screen. Kudos to Affleck for his creative use of music, blistering sound effects and temporary blackouts during the most unforgettable scene of the picture.



Photo courtesy of www.apple.com

The other aspects of the action that make it so nerve-racking are the film's characters. Because of the spectacular writing and the exemplary acting of the entire ensemble, we grow attached to them. Which is no easy feat given the complexity of the roles involved. Which is to say we aren't attached to the characters because we like them, in fact not many of them are likable at all. Instead this attachment is due to the simple fact that we know they represent real human beings. There are no archetypes here, everyone involved in the story is a three-dimensional, fully developed part of a living-breathing world that the film has made us a part of.

And if that isn't enough, we see ourselves as these characters stuck in gray-area situations. There are no easy solutions, as is so often the case in reality. The film asks difficult questions of its characters and thus asks the same of its audience, which will undoubtedly lead to some of the most in-depth, ride-home debates you'll ever have.

For some it might not be the most enjoyable film to sit through and certainly not the easiest but it is still a must-see. The subject matter in "Gone Baby Gone" makes it a movie not to be taken lightly. However, when has an emotional, significant work of fiction ever been easy to handle?

BOTTOM LINE: We've gone from biographies to super-heroes to crime dramas. But if Hollywood's newest genre of choice produces more films like this, keep 'em coming. A must-see and an Academy Award shoe-in.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieD

Graphic novel turned movie: '30 Days of Night'

Kayla Cournoyer
A&E Columnist

"30 Days of Night," directed by David Slade, was based on a graphic novel. It takes place in Burrow, Alaska, also known as the "top of the world."

The film takes place during the month in which this town experiences no daylight. The film starts up with mysterious things happening around the town and to the people who live there. As the film progresses, the danger behind all the mystery is revealed.

Starring Josh Hartnett and Melissa George this film is full of action and gore with a hint of a love story. Hartnett and George play the "law of the town," since they are among the few that do not leave Burrow during its month of darkness.

After arresting a stranger of the town, the weird things continue to occur, only getting worse as time goes on. The stranger tries to warn the town of what is coming, only to fail in getting them to prepare for the dangers ahead.

As towns people begin to die, the thought of vampires is brought into the film only to be shot down by the characters. The gore in this movie hits an absolute maximum early in the film, only to stay just as impressionable as the film goes on.

The vampires in "30 Days of Night" are showed to the viewers as well as appearing to have a sense of personality. The storyline will keep viewers on the seat's edge and make them jump every now and again.

The vampires are not overdone and the story does not hold the stereotypical ways to conquer a vampire. There are surprises as the plot continues as well as an unexpected ending.

"30 Days of Night" is a must see for anyone who enjoys watching an intense movie that will have you wanting more. With a good vampire storyline as well as a small love story, this movie is packed with thrill. You'll laugh, you'll scream and you might even cry, either way, this movie is defiantly a must-see.

Upcoming CAB Events



-This Friday 10/26 at 11 pm in the Ely Main Lounge is Brown Bag Bingo.

-10/31 from 8pm-12 CAB will be hosting a Halloween Dance Party in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. We will be having prizes for Best Costume! First Prize will be $100 to the Holyoke Mall. Second Prize will be $75 to the mall and third will be $50 to the mall.

-Say What Karaoke is coming up! Tuesday, November 6th at 7:30 in the Ely Main Lounge will be the prelims. People can sign up until November 1st by calling Kerry Lyons in SGA x5429 or IMing WSC-CAB2003. The finals will be November 8th at 8pm in Dever.

Myspace band of the week

Kim Casey
A&E Columnist

Sometimes the simplicity of certain music can tear into your crazy life and slow everything down, if just for a second. This is what the indie folk band, Ette, accomplishes with every strum of their acoustic guitars.

The band is out of Braintree, Mass. Ette was originally formed by Joe Jennings on guitar and lead vocals and Nick Mercado on the guitar and harmonica. Later they were joined by bassist Brendan Hogan and Guy McGiunn on drums. The band now sounds more complete.

The website is very appealing. The background is the art from their album cover. They have fliers up of upcoming shows and video from past shows. There are plenty of comments and you can tell their fans are true and relate to every word sung.

So if you are looking for a band that you can sing along with that just strikes a chord in your heart, I seriously suggest you check out http://www.myspace.com/ette

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.



Images from the celebration of the Red Sox winning the ALCS Championship
Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007
Old Apartments Complex Courtyard
Photos by Karen Evans, Eryn Carter and Molly Pappas

Torre showed class as Yankees skipper

COLBY HENDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

As a Red Sox fan, I have become accustomed to seeing Joe Torre leading the hated New York Yankees into Fenway Park, year after year, for as long as I can remember. I don't remember a New York Yankees team in which Joe Torre was not the manager, mainly because I was only eight years old when he was brought in as the Yankees new skipper in 1995.

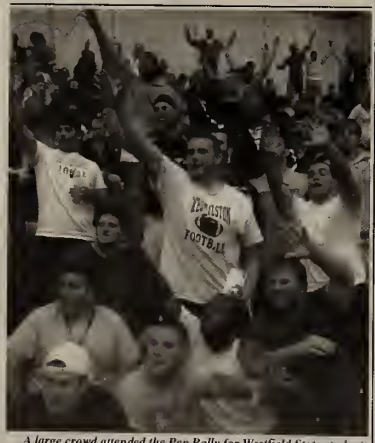
There have been many Yankees players that have come and gone that I have hated as a Red Sox fan: Karim Garcia, Jeff Nelson, Alex Rodriguez, Johnny Damon, Aaron Boone, etc. However there are also many Yankees players that I can't help but respect: Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada, Paul O'Neill, Scott Brosius, Mike Mussina, Mariano Rivera, etc. Joe Torre falls under the ladder. I have come to appreciate Joe Torre as a manager and as a person, having watched him for the past 12 seasons with the Yankees.

Last week, Torre was offered a contract that he considered to be an insult, leaving him with only one option, rejecting the offer and parting ways with the Yankees. The offer came as no surprise considering the Yankees have failed to make it past the first round of the playoffs in each of the last three seasons and this season failed to win the division for the first time since 1997.

Torre was hired by the Yankees on Nov. 5, 1995 after spending parts of 12 seasons managing in the National League with the Mets, Braves and Cardinals, respectively. Torre led the Yankees to the World Series in his first season as manager, defeating the Atlanta Braves in six games, and securing the organizations 23rd title, the first since 1978. Torre would lead the Yankees to three more titles: 1998 against the San Diego Padres; 1999 against the Atlanta Braves; and 2000 against the New York Mets. The Yankees made the playoffs in all 12 seasons under Joe Torre, all of which were divisional champs except for the 1997 and 2007 seasons. Torre has won the American League Manager of the Year Award in 1996 and 1998, both seasons in which the Yankees won World Championships.

Whether or not this is Torre's final stint as a manager has yet to be determined, but at the age of 67, it is clear that his legacy will be atop the list of the greatest managers of all-time, among the likes of Connie Mack, Casey Stengell and Sparky Anderson, to name a few.

As baseball fans, we should consider ourselves lucky to have grown up with such an intense rivalry between the Red Sox and Yankees having seen a fair share of winning and losing from both sides, as well as a fair share of great players. However, the leadership and integrity displayed by Joe Torre during his tenure as the Yankees manager will not soon be surpassed and his shoes will almost certainly be impossible to fill. I tip my cap to a classy guy who embodies the true spirit of baseball and will forever be remembered as number six.



A large crowd attended the Pep Rally for Westfield State student-athletes on Tuesday evening, Oct. 16 at the Woodward Center field house. Members of the Owl football team are pictured above attempting to snag some of the many prizes that were tossed into the crowd. The football team hosts Bridgewater State in the big Westfield State homecoming game this Saturday. The Pep Rally was sponsored by the Westfield State Student-Athlete Advisory Board.

Owls edge Bears in thriller, 21-14

JEFF DALE
SPORTS EDITOR

WESTFIELD- This past Saturday, Oct. 20 was an Alumni Weekend to remember as the Westfield State Owls defeated their Bogan Division rival Bridgewater State, 21-14, in a game where every second counted.

Sophomore tailback, Drew Lyons, got his first start of the season and took advantage of the opportunity posting 158 yards rushing on 35 carries and a touchdown.

Bridgewater had an even better game on the ground, combining for 265 rushing yards, which was due in large part to their option style offense. However, the Owls defense would rise to the occasion when it mattered throughout the game, with a "bend but not break" philosophy.

One such example was on Bridgewater's first drive of the game when they marched 77 yards in 20 plays, to the Owls goal line. On three straight rushes from the Owl one-yard line, the defense stuffed the Bears running game. The Bears then lined up for a chip shot field goal that would have given them a 3-0 lead, but senior Captain Ricky Angus blocked the attempt.

"They had a lot of chances in the red zone," Angus said. "But that's type of team we have, guys step up when we need it."

On the Bears second possession, they had more luck, this time driving 72 yards for a touchdown to put them on top 7-0.

On the ensuing kick-off the Owls would answer back as sophomore Ryan Leroux would field the ball on a bounce, and scamper 61 yards to the Bears 17 yard line. In three plays the Owls would tie the score on a one-yard plunge from junior fullback, P.J. Mallone.

Both teams' defeoses held the game in check for the rest of the half and going into halftime the score would be tied at 7-7.

Entering the second half the Owl defense would continue to have success in stopping Bridgewater's offense. On the Bears first three possessions of the second half, the Owls would force turnovers. The first coming when Bears quarterback, Greg Borsari, was stripped in the backfield. The second and third coming on a muffed punt by the Bears special teams and an interception by Angus.

Westfield's offense was not able to turn the first two turnovers into points, but on the third they would not be denied. Going 42 yards on 10 plays ending with a three yard run by Lyons to put them ahead 14-7.

In the fourth quarter, Bridgewater would answer back as their tailback, Chris Russell, would break off a 36 yard run right up the middle of the Owl defense. Sophomore defensive back, Josh Mathieu, would make a touchdown saving tackle, finally dragging Russell down around the Owl 31 yard line. The rest of the drive would consist of all running plays as the Owls defense would be put in a familiar situation, a goal line stand.



Drew Lyons did double duty vs. Bridgewater State with running back Jason Proule sidelined with an injury. The 5-6, 175-pounder carried the ball 35 times for 158 yards. File Photo By Mickey Curtis

On the first three runs, the Owl defense stood strong as it did earlier in the game, but on a fourth and goal from the one yard line the Bears would run a quarterback sneak to tie the game at 14 all.

On the Owls next drive their offense would give the Bears a dose of their own medicine. They would drive 62 yards in seven plays, six of which would be runs. The touchdown would come after a timeout where Coach Marino would call a play the Bears did not see coming at all.

After five carries given to Lyons on the drive the ball would go to fullback, Tim Thomas, on a perfectly executed counter trap letting him walk in untouched to give Westfield a 21-14 lead.

The game was far from being over though, as the Bears offense would get two more chances to tie the game. The first attempt would start with three minutes left in the game, but would end shortly as Bears quarterback Steve Clark would be picked off by Mathieu.

The Owls offense would then go three and out, giving Bridgewater another chance with under two minutes remaining in the game.

However, another special teams ace for the Owls would come up big again. Punter Brad Barnard would uncork a 56-yard punt to pin the Bears deep.

Starting the final drive with no time outs, 1:18 on the clock, and with 90 yards to go, the Bears offense would need to execute the drive perfectly to tie the score. With a series of sideline passes and Owl penalties the Bears had one shot.

From the Owls 17 yard line Borsari scrambled to his left and then back to the middle of the field, dodgeing many Owl defenders along the way. As he came back to the middle of the field he threw up a lob toward the end zone that bounced harmlessly to the ground giving the Owls the 21-14 win.

"It was huge a win!" Angus said. "Great football players there from past years with it being Alumni Weekend and it was a good feather in our cap considering Bridgewater is division rival."

The Owls now stand at 4-3 on the season and 3-2 in the Bogan division. They face the Fitchburg State Falcons on Alumni Field this Saturday at 1:00 PM.

The comeback kids

TERESA DOLLFUSS
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Down three games to one in the ALCS, the Red Sox continued to give it their all. In the end it ended up paying off for them as they make their second World Series appearance in the four years Terry Francona has managed the team.

The Red Sox and Red Sox Nation turned to Josh Beckett in Game 5 to keep their postseason hopes alive and he did just that. He managed to keep the Indians to one run in his eight innings pitched. His clutch pitching and the 7-1 victory then brought the series back to Beantown.

In Game 6, the Red Sox bats came alive. J.D. Drew hit a grand slam in the first inning against Fausto Carmona to get a 4-0 lead. Little did the Red Sox know that was all they would need to beat the Indians, who were kept to two runs and downed in a 12-2 loss.

Curt Schilling pitched seven stellar innings for the Sox in Game 6 and rookie Jacoby Ellsbury got his first postseason start in center field. Eric Gagne managed to have a good night out of the bullpen as well, and hopefully that will have a positive impact on his future appearances.

Now on to Game 7, where Daisuek Matsuzaka pitched an amazing game, probably one of the best games I have seen him pitch all season. He gave up two runs in five innings, and after that it was up to the bullpen to bring the Sox to the World Series.

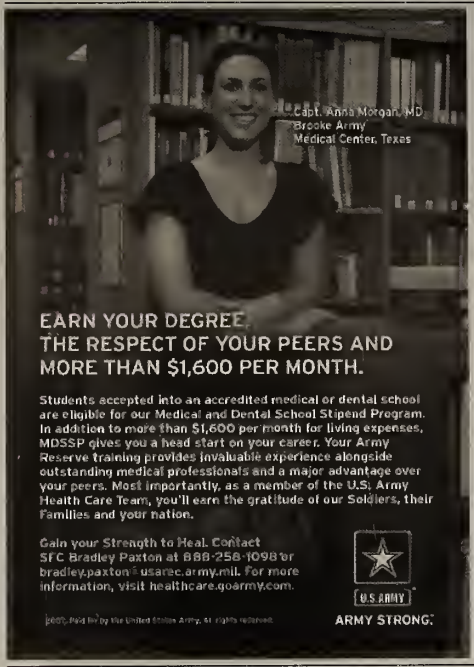
Hideki Okajima and Jonathon Papelbon each pitched two scoreless innings, while the Red Sox cranked up the heat on offense, scoring eleven runs total and winning with a final score of 11-2. Beckett was named the ALCS MVP, most likely because his stellar pitching performance in Game 5 is what helped turn the Red Sox around.

When push came to shove, the Red Sox turned up the heat and scored runs when it really mattered. Facing elimination each of the last three games didn't seem to faze them, it just made them play better.

Not only did Fenway Park and Boston in general go insane with crowds of people screaming, but our very own Westfield campus was filled with screaming Red Sox fans celebrating the win.

There were crowds of people all around campus that eventually migrated to the space between the old apartments and Dickinson Hall. Everyone was so excited over the win and the fact that the Red Sox are going to another World Series. Red Sox fans gathered together to celebrate, whether they knew each other or not.

The World Series is bound to be an interesting one. It will be the Comeback Kids versus a team who hasn't lost a single game this postseason. Who will prevail? Well, we will just have to wait and see.





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Owls win 4th straight MASCAC Title

WORCESTER – Exceptional pack running gave the Westfield State women's cross country team its fourth consecutive Massachuetts State College Athletics Conference championship on Oct. 20.

The meet was hosted by Worester State and held at Moore State Park in Paxton, Mass.

It was also the ninth crown in the past 11 years for the Owls, who placed five runners in the top 14 to compile 45 points, outdistancing Bridgewater State (60 points) and Salem State (64).

Bridgewater and Salem both had two runners in the top four, but the Owls took the team title with its potent pack running.

Sophomore Kerry Arouca was Westfield's top runner, placing fifth with a time of 21:22.3. Arouca outkicked junior teammate Marianne Mealey (7th place, 21:25.7) in the closing stretch.

Bridgewater senior Nicole Mauro won the race with a final time of 19:43.2.

Also earning all-conference honors for Westfield were sophomore Ally Brown (9th, 21:27.9) and freshman Heather Wiencko (10th, 21:28.7). Sophomore Jennifer Daniels placed 14th, followed by senior Mel Joyce (17th) and Mandi Baker (21st).

"Pack running did it for us," said veteran Westfield State coach Boh Rausch. "We have been running like that all season and today it really paid off."



Westfield State College - 2007 MASCAC women's cross country champions

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Fri 10/26

- Field Hockey v. Western CT, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Alumni Turf
- Brown Bag Bingo, 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., Ely Main Lounge
- Back on the Map, 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., Scanlon Banquet Hall ABCD

Sat 10/27

- Gaming of the Big Screen, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Ely Main Lounge
- Football Game vs. Fitchburg State, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Alumni Turf
- Card Night, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Ely Main Lounge

Sun 10/28

- Roman Catholic Noon Mass, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Chapel Upstairs
- Patriots v. Washington- w/ snacks, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Ely Main Lounge
- Rocky Horror Picture Show, 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Ely Lower Lounge

Mon 10/29

- Free Commuter Coffee, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Quixotes Cafe
- Disney Presentation Meeting, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Scanlon Banquet Hall A
- Scanlon Hall Halloween Party, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Scanlon Living Room

Tues 10/30

- New Student Orientation Interest Meeting, 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Ely Lower Lounge
- Pink Ribbon Benefit Show, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Ely Main Lounge
- Senior Reality Series, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Dickinson Commons

Wed 10/31

- "Fatal Vision" Using Alcohol Responsibly, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Ely Main Lounge
- Rock wall open to WSC, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Woodward Rock Wall
- Halloween Masquerade Party, 7:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., Scanlon Banquet Hall ABCD

Thurs 11/01

- Aviation Day, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Ely Main Lounge
- Vaccine Clinic: Flu, Meningitis and Gardasil, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Scanlon Banquet Hall ABCD
- Dia de los Muertos, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Third World Room

***** Join the Voice Staff *****

We are always looking for additional reporters, reviewers, columnists, cartoonists, copy-editors, etc. It's a lot of fun and great for your resume! There's no experience needed and the time commitment is incredibly flexible! Stop up anytime, all majors welcome!

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
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Breast cancer affects everyone

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief

In 2006, there was an estimate of over 200,000 new cases of breast cancer in the United States. About 40,000 of those cases died from it.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in woman, following lung cancer. Breast cancer occurs when cells within the breast tissue grow and divide beyond the normality of control. The mammary ducts, which is where milk passes through to the nipple, is the site of which 85 percent of breast cancer originates, according to the Susan B. Komen for the Cure website.

If over the age of 50, it's important for woman to get a mammogram (x-ray test of the breasts to check for breast problems) at least every couple of years. For women under the age of 50, mammogram benefits are not as clear. However, this doesn't mean women cannot begin checking for potential problems through breast self-exams (BSE) starting early on. According to breastcancer.org, "Examining your breasts is an important way to find breast cancer early, when it's most likely to be cured. Not every cancer can be found this way, but it is a critical step you can and should take for yourself." In order to perform an appropriate self-exam, with fingers flat, move gently over each part of both breasts. Use your right hand for your left breast, and left hand for your right breast. Check for any signs of a lump, hard knot or thickening. Also, make sure to carefully observe for any physical changes in your breasts.

About five to 10 percent of mammogram results will dictate the need for further testing. These tests can include a biopsy or ultrasound. False-positive results, results that show a positive detection of cancer which isn't true, is most common in younger women, though is possible in all age groups.

It's also important to note that finding a lump in your breast doesn't mean you have breast cancer, a common misconception. Eight out of 10 lumps discovered in the breast are benign (non-cancerous). It is, however, important to consult your physician immediately if you discover a lump, just to stay on the safe side, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, INC.

Another misconception, according to NBCF, is that men are unable to develop breast cancer. This is "quite the contrary. This year it is estimated that approximately 1,700 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 450 will die. While this percentage is still small, men should also give themselves monthly exams and note any changes to their physicians."

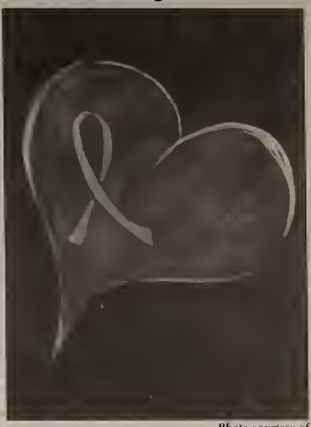


Photo courtesy of http://www.angelfire.com/fl/PaintedLady/BeiSeni.html

While women who have a family history of breast cancer run a higher risk of developing the cancer themselves, this doesn't necessarily mean that you will get it. A NCBF statistic says that most women who develop breast cancer have no family history of it. But for those whose mother, grandmother or sister have breast cancer, she should go have a mammogram five years prior to their relatives' diagnosis age.

Continued on page 3

Top 10 signs you've had a bad Halloween

1. You trick-or-treated at Mel Gibson's house as a Jewish cop.

2. Instead of candy, your parents handed out Scientology brochures.

3. While everyone's girlfriends dressed slutty, yours dressed like Hillary in a pantsuit.

4. "Punks" who pelted you with eggs and shaving cream: Your roommates.

5. Closest you came to dressing up was changing jumpsuits with your cellmate.

6. Because you left out an open bag of caramels, you had to Hemilich your pet monkey.

7. You went to Madonna's house and she adopted you.

8. Mariachi costume was so convincing, you got your ass deported to Mexico.

9. "Bobbing for apples" accidently turned into "Bobbing for Grandma's glass eye."

10. You're home reading The Voice.

Courtesy of David Letternan's Top 10 list

Westfield's unsolved murder

Andie Biagini
Voice Reporter

On Friday, Oct. 12, Westfield State College hosted a presentation on an unsolved murder that took place in Westfield. Dr. Mike McCartney, retired faculty member and current adjunct professor, told students, faculty and alumni the story of Lewis Alan, a professor whose life was cut short by an unidentified gunman.

Alan was a Chemistry professor and member of the College Board of Health at Westfield Normal School in the early twentieth century. He began to cause a stir in the community by using his lab to test the products of local grocery stores. The Pure Food and Drug Act had just been established in 1906 with the intent of creating a standard of health and cleanliness that would keep consumers safe. However, as Alan discovered, the new laws were not enforced and shoppers were still at risk. He discovered atrocities such as lollipops laced with arsenic, pickle juice made from horse urine and candy that contained wallpaper glue.

Outraged, Alan took action. He and his students began teaching people all over the Westfield area how to test the food they bought to see if it was safe for consumption. Soon his methods were nationally known and credited. Alan was asked to inspect grocery stores and verify that the establishment only carried safe foods. He even began to publish lists of safe products for consumer reference. Not everyone was grateful for Alan's work. No longer able to sell inferior merchandise at a profit, grocers and food packagers were incensed, as were the political parties who backed them.

Those weren't the only enemies Alan made. In later years, he won a patent for a new sugar refining process and then refused to turn it over to the Coca Cola Company to use in their sodas. He developed a way to concentrate foods without sacrificing their nutritional value. The Nazi Army wanted to use the concentrates to feed their troops, but Alan wouldn't give the formula up. Once his reputation had been established, Alan was often called upon as a chemical consultant in cases against the mafia. Alan also had difficulties in his personal life - he was reportedly having an affair with the mistress of Alan Smith, Westfield's Chief of Police. Neither Smith nor Alan's wife could have been very happy about that.

The long list of people with grudges against Alan made for a long list of suspects. He had been receiving threatening letters for a long time before the night of his death. After the fact, neighbors came forward to report seeing a strange man sitting in a parked car near the Alans' home for an hour on the day of the murder. There were also reports of various individuals buying .22 caliber bullets (which match the shells found at the crime scene) on the same day. A police department pistol also mysteriously went missing after the crime. Still, all police knew for sure was that Alan got up to answer the door one night, and whoever was on the doorstep beat him severely and then shot him four times. He died before he could describe his murderer.

No one was ever charged with the crime of Alan's murder. The weapon was never found and no other strong leads presented themselves. Today, it remains the only unsolved murder in Westfield history.

Learn "How to lose a girl in 10 Days."

Check out Page 6

Thanks to Rebeka Lent for designing the fall theme graphics for the paper!



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Investigative journalist sheds light on modern slavery

Jenn Krok
Managing Editor

On Monday Oct. 15, investigative journalist, Christine Dolan, spoke at Westfield State about an issue unbeknownst to the Average-Joe. Dolan is the author of the book "Shattered Innocence – The Millennium Holocaust," in which she addresses the issues of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a "misleading term" according to Dolan. No one is exactly sure who coined the term, but in this case it literally means taking people, most times against their will, and moving them to different parts of the world to be used for modern slavery.

Dolan, former Political Director of CNN, has dedicated the past seven years of her life to studying, reporting and making this issue known to the rest of the blindsided world.

There are eight types of human trafficking that involve men, women and children of all ages and ethnicities. Among them are sex trafficking, labor trafficking, war slaves, sex tourism, Internet pedo-criminality, organ trafficking, skin trafficking and ritual abuse torture. The most common of these seem to be sex trafficking, war slaves and Internet pedo-criminality in the United States.

Dolan has gone under cover as a prostitute and gone into brothels to talk to the people behind the trafficking. She refers to them as "logistical geniuses" because of their ability to plan out these trips and put them into effect with the meticulous detail that is involved. Trafficking is essentially a business. "You're bought, you're sold. You're basically a head of lettuce," said Dolan.

Sex trafficking takes place all over the world. Women and men are literally snatched from their homes and taken to other countries to become sex slaves. People will be moved by any means necessary including planes, land vehicles or boats. Once their destination is reached, they're forced into slavery by traffickers, sometimes having to "service" as many as "60 people in one night."

Most people think that prostitution is a voluntary profession, and in some cases it is. But in many cases the person "working the corner" is forced to be there against her will and she really has no way out. This is because of sex trafficking. She is an object that is forced to make money for her boss by having sex with people. If she doesn't, then there are consequences. Dolan says, "People are sold, bought, battered and auctioned. it happens all of the time."

In many cases the local police enforcement aren't aware of what is going on or they're involved with the business of trafficking. This is why many of the victims are scared and have no way out. They have no one to turn to.

In some instances, even if they want to return home they can't because of religious and cultural beliefs. Dolan spoke of one victim she met that was from the Middle East. She said that the woman claimed she couldn't return home because in her culture a woman had to be a virgin until she was married. So even if she was able to get out and return home, her family would reject her as soon as she told them her horrid story.

What seems to be even more mind-boggling are the ages of the victims. It's not only adult men and women, but children as well. According to a study done in 2006, 83 percent of the victims were between the ages of six and 12, 19 percent were under the age of three and in one case in Scotland Yard, London there was a child just hours old.

Dolan said that she didn't believe it until she saw it for herself. Once she witnessed photographs and videos of this inexplicable behavior she said that it completely changed her life. "I could not move for 24 hours," she said when referring to one video she saw.

Dolan told of one child that she spoke with that was a sex slave in another country. She explained that the child said he had no escape because "no one cares about us." Dolan responded by saying, "People care, they just don't know."

It's not just sex trafficking that involves the children. War trafficking is a big issue in Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq. Children are taken from their families in the middle of the night and forced to work for drug and warlords. "Children are kidnapped and kill other people. Drugs are usually involved," Dolan said.

In some countries, children will leave their houses in the middle of the night and sleep in schools to try and hide from the traffickers.

Human trafficking isn't an issue that can be ignored in the United States because it is taking place right in our own backyards. Internet pedo-criminality is one of the most common forms in our country. Essentially, it is exploiting children in a sexual manner over the Internet. Child pornography is a well-known form of Internet pedo-criminality. In 2002 alone it generated $34 billion.

Predators, male and female, will track down children online and try to get them to engage in inappropriate behavior and in some cases even meet up. With sites like Facebook and MySpace, and increasing technology such as Web cams, it is becoming easier for predators to seduce and track down their victims.

Internet trafficking is a growing industry. There are 120 million victims of Internet trafficking in Latin and Central America, and 10 million child prostitutes, which by definition is a sex slave.

There is a current campaign to report child pornography in the United States and it is in the process of extending to other countries. Anyone, including the victims themselves, can go to www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com and report abuse. Many times the children involved don't realize that predators are getting out of hand until it is too late and they're afraid to go to an adult for help. This is a way they can anonymously protect themselves. This isn't just to track predators; any type of video, link or advertisement involving child pornography can be reported.

The people that run this website are everyday police officers and officials trying to protect these children. Abuse can be reported from anywhere in the world and the forces behind the site will figure out language, jurisdiction and all of the technicalities involved.

The statistics involving human trafficking are growing every year. In 2000, the U.N. and U.S. generated $7 billion on the street. In 2001, that figure rose to $19 billion and then dropped to $12 billion in 2005. In 2006, it reached a record high of $32 billion generated from the streets alone. These statistics don't count revenue from the Internet.

So what happens to the victims of human trafficking once they're too old to perform and they're "used up"? According to Dolan many of the victims end up with severe emotional problems and can't function in normal society. They can be provided with as much therapy as possible, but it doesn't always help. "We can't get the memories out of their minds," she said. "It changes the fabric of society."

Dolan said that the story of some of these victims has almost had her in tears. "The tragedy of some of these victims took my breath away," she said. She told one victim "tell me your story and I'll take it to the world."

Human trafficking started to become phenomena in the 1990s. Its root causes are corruption, wars, lack of laws, extreme poverty, lack of education, racism and gender bias, ignorance and lack of compassion for humanity. The fall of communism, globalization and the Internet have all contributed to the increase of the human trafficking business. "It's like a tidal wave moving west," Dolan said.

The title of Dolan's lecture was "Children in Slavery -- The 21st Century." The stories and statistics that she talked about describe just that. Through seven years of dedication and hard work, sometimes life threatening, she has been able to open the eyes and hearts of millions of people, and she still has more to go.

She said, "Think of it as evil. Think of it as among us."

Editor's Desk



College really *is* the best four (or many more depending on who you are) years of your life! I mean, here we are, adults (in the eyes of the legal system anyway) who light shoes on fire, set fireworks into crowds, flash large groups of people...repeatedly...because let's face it ladies, there is no better way to show our support for the Red Sox than to degrade ourselves in front of hundreds of our peers, try to uproot goal posts on the football field and even throw a beer can or two at police officers for extra measure. And all in the name of the Red Sox, because we're just *that* damn proud. Go college!

And what makes these times even cooler is that we have Facebook! Only on there can we form groups dedicated to flipping off the administrative officials who orchestrated and put up flyers (how dare they!) about Alcohol Choice Education. Sixty-four point four percent of WSC students drink once a week or less. Bull. Let's show 'em and make a group that shows the hundreds of those who qualify under the 35.6 percent of us who DO drink more than once a week. I mean, this is college. We *should* be drinking multiple times a week (and proudly vocalizing it) and then missing classes the next day, sleeping off the drunken stupor we repeatedly put ourselves in. What else do we have to do? Screw classes and getting decent grades. I can think of no better way to stick it to 'em than by formulating a Facebook group. Because, really, when you think about it, it's not gonna be "as cool" to do that at the office when your boss decides you no longer can have 'Casual Fridays' at work. You'd just be that loser in Cubicle C that still plays on Facebook and MySpace at the age of 30.

I'm so proud to be part of a community that prides itself on maturity. I'm willing to admit that there is a group of people on campus who aren't as cool as the rest of us by not pissing away their time getting drunk and forgetting things in the morning. Their lives must not be nearly as fun and riskful as ours.

Enjoy these four years, college students. When you're 22 (hopefully), holding a diploma and looking into the real world, let's hope that employers respect our hard-earned title of 'Beer-Funnel Champ' and all those hours we spent praying that one of our sports teams would win so we could have a legitimate excuse to set something on fire. The resume just writes itself. They'd be stupid not to hire us. We'd throw kick-ass Christmas parties.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



To quote my roommate, Jenna: "We just won the motha-f'in World Series!!!"



People who were stupid enough to get themselves arrested at a WSC riot (of all places) over the Red Sox.

Breast cancer - continued from poge 1

While it's not concrete what causes breast cancer, research has discovered certain risk factors that may increase a woman's chance of developing it. Older age, diets that are high in saturated fats, obesity and moderate alcohol intake (more than two drinks per day) are just a few of the factors. To review a complete list, visit www.nationalbreastcancer.org.

October was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but just because the month has passed doesn't mean



Photo courtesy of shop.advanceweb.com/images/products/2007l

that you can't help out. There are dozens of breast cancer websites where you can make a donation or purchase an array of products that support the fight.

Whether your mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, a friend or you have or had breast cancer, the disease touches and affects everyone. With continual research, early diagnosis and donations, we can only hope that breast cancer deaths do not continue to be an overwhelming statistic.

"Hope is contagious." [Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr – author of *Seasons of the Heart*]

Sustainability Day

ASHLEY MCGILLOWAY
VOICE REPORTER

On Wednesday, a "Green Fair" took place in the Ely main lounge in association with National Campus Sustainability Day. The fair was run by faculty and students to promote ways the students of Westfield State can help the environment.

Environmental sustainabdity involves using natural resources and making sure they will last for years to come. The fair helped introduce some useful tips students can take part in to make our campus more environmentally friendly.

Students were encouraged to wear green so that they could win prizes. Also, those who made pledges to be more "green" were entered into a raffle to win a new bicycle.

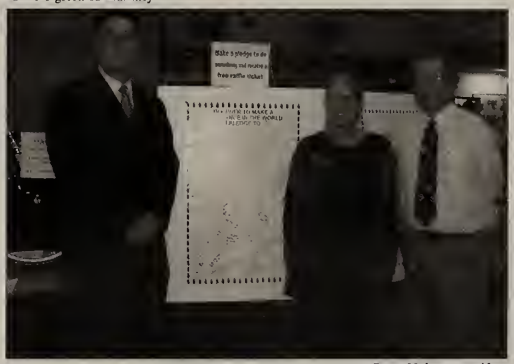
The fair included displays from local businesses promoting sustainability, and the Big Y gave away 400 green re-usable grocery bags. MassPIRG was also there serving apple cider heated with solar panels.

Brittany Burnside, a MassRIDES outreach coordinator, promoted ways college commuters can improve the environment. "MassRIDES will match students to carpool to and from campus that live nearby each other," Burnside said. "This reduces the number of cars, improves air quality and decreases traffic congestion."

Keith Mitcheltree, sales coordinator with RoVic cleaning supplies, promoted sustainable programs and procedures at the fair. Mitcheltree explained that RoVic creates innovative cleaning solutions and we use them here at Westfield.

He said this involves the proper disposal of cleaning supplies, and using entrance matting at each entrance with renewable rubber. Mitcheltree also said, "Using vacuum cleaners with hepa filters minimizes dust to 99.9 percent, and creates better indoor air quality."

Students were encouraged to "think green" throughout the fair. The faculty and staff hopes that these ideas will stick with them.



Borry Moloney, president

Professor Trudy Knowles, Educotion Deportment, co-chair

Professor Robert Thompson, Biology Department, co-chair

Winners of Green Day Raffle:

Grand Prize – Columbia Dirt Bike:	Matt Walsh
Flash Drive -	Sean McGinness
Flash Drive -	Ericka Wilson
Follett Book Store -	Cherise Spiller
Sodexho Gift Certificate -	Rob McGinnity
Green Day Gift Basket -	Jill Manganelli



How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

CAREER BUSTERS
or
How to Sabotage your career regardless of grudes, degree or experience!

MySpace, Facebook, cell phone bills, JBoard – familiar terms? Wondering what these have to do with your career? Take notice, these things matter more than you think.

"The latest statistics from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) show that almost 80 percent of the companies surveyed are conducting background checks on potential employees," (NEHRA, Fall 2007). Employers are now checking social networks and credit bureaus along with the traditional on and off campus background checks. Employers are reviewing these for internships as well as full and part-time employment.

A recent article on CareerBuilder.com, "Warning: Social Networking Can be Hazardous to Your Job Search" warns: "That cute, affable guy who brags of his drunken exploits on Facebook.com may be meeting a lot of other partiers online, but he's probably not getting added to the 'friends' lists of many corporate recruiters. A recent study by the executive search firm ExecuNet found that 77 percent of recruiters run searches of candidates on the Web to screen applicants; 35 percent of these same recruiters say they've eliminated a candidate based on the information they uncovered," (Kate Lorenz, CareerBuilder.com Editor, 24/09/2007).

"You'd be surprised at what I've seen when researching candidates," says Gail, a recruiter at a Fortune 500 company who recently began looking up potential hires on the Web.

"We were having a tough time deciding between two candidates until I found the profile of one of them on MySpace. It boasted a photo of her lounging on a hammock in a bikini, listed her interests as 'having a good time' and her sex as 'yes, please.' Not quite what we were looking for."

"Another time I went to a candidate's site and found racial slurs and jokes," Gail continues. "And there was yet another instance where a candidate told me he was currently working for a company, yet he left a comment on a friend's profile about how it 'sucked' to be laid off, and how much fun it was to be unemployed!"

Students are encouraged to think carefully before posting information that might damage their employment prospects.

Think twice before engaging in reckless behavior on and off campus. Don't let a night of Red Sox celebration tarnish an otherwise clean slate. Be careful with consumer credit. Delinquent cell phone, car and student loans can come back to haunt you. When posting online, use caution and monitor what your friends' post that might include you!

Kate Lorenz concludes with the following advice:

"Not all employers search candidates and employees online, but the trend is growing. Don't let online social networking deep-six your career opportunities."

Protect your image by following these simple tips:

1. Be careful. Nothing is private. Don't post anything on your site or your "friends" sites you wouldn't want a prospective employer to see. Derogatory comments, revealing or risqué photos, foul language and lewd jokes all will be viewed as a reflection of your character.
2. Be discreet. If your network offers the option, consider setting your profile to "private," so that it is viewable only by friends of your choosing. And since you can't control what other people say on your site, you may want to use the "block comments" feature. Remember, everything on the Internet is arebived and there is no eraser!
3. Be prepared. Check your profile regularly to see what comments have been posted. Use a search engine to look for online records of yourself to see what is out there about you. If you find information you feel could be detrimental to your candidacy or career, see about getting it removed -- and make sure you have an answer ready to counter or explain "digital dirt."

If you have any questions about these matters, feel free to contact your Career Center at careers@wsc.ma.edu or (413) 572-5206.

Maureen McCartney
Director
WSC Career Center

Letter to the Editor

Dear Rob McGinnity and various Voice staff,

Salutations. My name is Evan Cullerton, a senior of mathematics here at lovely Westfield State. I'm writing to implore some information about the dining commons that, well, in my opinion seemed inadequately researched.

First off, I would like to make it known that the dining commons has another title, The Father John Dean Dining Commons (FJDDC). It was dedicated to Father Dean of the interfaith center roughly a year ago.

But I digress. McGinnity makes many claims about the FJDDC and since it appears as though he did not look for the real reasons to his claims, I would like to offer the answers where I can.

There is a food committee that meets every Tuesday in the private dining room at 4:30 p.m. The time will be changing to 4:15 effectively on November 6. The meetings are comprised of mostly students, the dining hall staff, our catering manager Maria Lees and the dining hall manager Craig Goodridge.

Students, do you know that to the left of the tray return is a bulletin board where you may submit comments or questions? Please post and tell us what concerns you have.

At these food committee meetings we, and I say we because I am a student involved, address every issue McGinnity has brushed upon in his article.

Gatorade and other drinks run out. This is bound to happen because as he quotes a worker, "students drink too much." This makes sense if you take a second and realize what is really going on. Imagine you are at a restaurant and you order a drink. If the machine is empty then the worker behind the scenes can fix it before he delivers your drink. At the FJDDC, it needs to be done at the front of the house and at the time that you bring it to their attention they may already have a list of things to do.

However if you ask someone they will accommodate your need. If they do not, contact the food committee or Craig Goodridge.

Lines. Hmmm ok lines are going to pop up always. If you enter anywhere at peak hours you will run into lines. It is a fact of life. The FJDDC tries its best to make lines move faster. My freshman year the pizza and burger station had a server giving you food. You were not allowed to grab a burger or slice of pizza yourself.

Speaking of which, has anyone ever been in the pizza line and saw a specialty pizza and was like, "ooh that looks good, I want a slice?" You count five people ahead of yourself and a full pizza on the counter. "I am golden." Then you reach the counter and find that the pizza you saw is now completely gone. We are all in college, there is no way that eight slices of pizza minus five people makes zero slices left for me. This proves why students should only be allowed to take ONE SLICE AT A TIME!

The FJDDC does not mind if you get pizza, go to your seat, eat your food and then get a new slice. It is just common courtesy, a trait that seemed lost to our previous "Dining Commons" writer.

Fruit flies are always an issue that comes from the front of the house. As doors open when students enter and exit flies come in. The night crew puts out traps and the morning crew cleans up. However, the exterminator used to come in once a week because of complaints from FJDDC staff. They are now coming in three-times a week. So give the flies a little more time before they are bug history.

I am not completely positive on the ice machine but I will make sure to ask at the next food committee meeting.

Putting laxatives in the food is a myth. Going to the bathroom a lot more often is fact. When you are at home over the summer or winter break you eat more home cooked meals. You come to college where, I'll admit, options are fewer. So you eat burgers and pizza. Well yes, if you add greasy food to a diet that did not consist of greasy food before then you get the runs. It is not laxatives, it is just a change in most people's diets.

A note on the times; my freshman year the DC opened at 8 a.m. I believe. Students complained and now they open at 7:30 a.m. so people with early classes can eat before them. They have extended lunch hours to an unofficial 2:15 p.m. Again, this is not always followed and we as a student body need to make the FJDDC commit to this. The reason though for the closure at 2:15 p.m. is for dinner to be cooked and plates, silverware etc to be cleaned. I personally would rather have dinner than no afternoon late lunch.

Additionally if you have class and can not make meals, you can sign up for a meal on the go. You need to call and pre-order a meal. The meal is usually some deli-type box lunch that you can pick up. This does not mean you come in, grab food and leave.

"Why can't we take food out of the DC?" If the food committee had a nickel every time we were asked this we could build another dining commons. The reason students can not take food out is because of liability. If a burger is made in the FJDDC, the staff makes sure it is tempered and kept sanitary. If a student brought that sandwich out, left it in their room for a few hours ate it and got sick then the dining commons would be liable. So to avoid legal issues, students are not allowed to bring food out. Howevever, they give leeway with fruits, some desserts and drinks in disposable cups.

Ah yes. Students leaving with non-disposable items. Every day you may need a fork and find none, or go for a drink and there are no cups around, or want cereal, salad and soup; and can not find a single bowl. Why? Why is the FJDDC cursing me? Students steal items from the FJDDC. Then new items are ordered, restocked and stolen again. It is getting so bad; a theoretical policy where backpacks will be required to be left at doors is being talked about. That's right kids, keep stealing and you will pay the consequences.

Another dining commons could be built from "where are all the cups" questions as well. If you can remember, look on the ground in the spring. Every year cups and spoons are found when all the winter snow melts away.

Ok I think I answered... no wait there are more. Television while you eat. Simple answer, we tried it and many students complained... so we stopped. We also tried bringing in a DJ to play music and students did not like it.

Alright, I think that is enough. McGininnty you did a good job getting the opinions of some students and maybe some employees. However, I did not feel like you represented the Father James Dean Dining Commons fairly. I wanted to try and help you answer the concerns of the students you questioned.

Students if you have any concerns contact the food committee via comment cards. If you want to take another step, actually attend our public meetings on Tuesdays in the private dining commons.

Remember, if something you want isn't being offered; ASK FOR IT. The staff is there to accommodate you. It may take a few extra minutes but they will {if they do not complain or say Craig said you would} meet your needs.

Evan Cullerton

Commuter Council Annual

Winter Coats/Clothing Drive

...to benefit Noble Hospital patients of need





NOW through Nov. 28

One central drop-off location -
Ely Campus Center Information Desk
Students – bring back items from home

Commuter Council members will come to faculty offices to pick up items –
Call Deb Niles-Morgan @ 5446

Voices Overheard

What is your cure for a hangover?



Hayley Perry
Class of 2008
Education/Art

"I like Gatorade. Lots of liquids and sleep. And you can't forget the advil."



Lindsey Holmes
Class of 2008
Criminal Justice

"Three or four aspirin and A LOT of apple juice."



Curtis Miller
Class of 2009
Psychology

"I don't get hangovers."



Andrew Hoch
Class of 2009
Biology

"Lots of fluids. Celery's good because it has a lot of vitamins. That's why they are in bloody marys."

Compiled by Eryn Carter

Think Green Day 2007



Evan Cullerton
Voice Columnist

Last Wednesday, the 24th, I walked around campus and noticed many students wearing green.

I checked my calendar, yeah it's still October and not St. Patricks day. I pondered, what is going on?

So I followed the trail of green shirts to Ely Main Lounge where the first Think Green Day was being held.

I was not alone in my walk. "We saw the bags {green prize bags}, put on some green clothes and came over," said Felipe Vazquez and Kristen Pierce, two sophomores taking part in the festivities.

Think Green Day is a national effort to raise environmental awareness and sustainability. It occurred on Oct. 24, and was held in Ely Main Lounge from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The event was led by education professor Trudy Knowles.

Knowles says this is the first year that Westfield is participating in a sustainability awareness day. The first thing she did was put together the event with the help of Bob Thompson. They sent an e-mail to the entire faculty first to see who would like to help with the event.

The representation the day of the event was impressive. Student run organizations, science club, Student National Education Association, Students for Peace and Justice, Addiction Counselor Education and various others had tables set up. Faculty from the Geography department and environmental services had tables set up on what was already being done on campus or "what is your ecological footprint".

In addition, local organizations and businesses were represented. According to e-mails sent to students, Big Y donated 400 food bags to reduce use of plastic bags, the college donated green water bottles to people in green, MASSPIRG made hot chocolate via solar panels and a Columbia bike was raffled off. To win a ticket for the raffle all you needed to do was make a pledge to improve the environment any way you could.



Photo courtesy of ravengrrl.blogspot.com/2007/04/earth-day-2007...

The initiative started at Westfield when Interim President Barry Maloney first signed on to the Presidential Climate Commitment. The Climate Commitment is comprised of three major initiatives according to a poster that was displayed in Ely.

1) Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.

2) Initiate two or more things to reduce greenhouse gases while a larger plan is developed.

3) Make the action plan, inventory and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the association for the advancement of sustainability in higher education for posting and dissemination.

Maloney is looking to establish a sustainability committee to tackle the above issues and the concerns of students. The committee would be comprised of students and staff.

To ensure students voices are heard, there was a suggestion box next to the Climate Commitment display. Vazquez and Pierce wrote they wished to see more ash tray bins around campus, thermal heating under buildings and to build more greenhouses. "I worked at the Greenhouse first semester {last year} and it was really cool" said Pierce.

Maloney wants to take the plan in three steps; Low Hanging immediate projects, Moderate Cost projects and finally Long Range goals. He is hoping to get additional state funding to support the movement.

Green Day is being driven by Governor Deval Patrick in a state-wide effort to improve sustainability according to Maloney. Maloney says that Patrick wants to reduce energy usage by 20 percent in five years at all the state colleges.

Knowles and Maloney were pleased with the turnout of the event. "We'd definitely come to another one, even if they aren't giving out free bags" agreed Pierce and Vazquez.

The next time you walk around and everyone is wearing green, and it isn't March 17, it just might be another Think Green Day.

How to lose a girl in 10 days

ANONYMOUS
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

Most of you guys out there probably think that when it comes to girls you've got it in the bag. But let's face it, guys do a lot of idiotic things and don't even realize it. Or perhaps they simply think that since their technique is working, why give up on a good thing? Maybe it's just the fact that girls tend to be more mature and intelligent than guys and therefore we see these practices as obvious don'ts. Well, for those of you men who don't have as much common sense as we women would hope...here are some serious DON'TS when it comes to hooking up with/dating a girl in college:

#10. Do not in any way, shape or form comment on our friend's body.

When you're with a girl she doesn't want to hear about her friend. If she wanted to hear your opinion she would ask. And even if she did ask, she still doesn't want the truth. Girls don't really care what your opinion is, because you're wrong anyways. Therefore, do not comment on the fact that so-and-so's ass has definitely gotten bigger since last year. Even if it has. We want you to say that you aren't in any way sexually attracted to her cottage-cheese ass. And if you do happen to comment on a friend of ours at least try and cover it up by saying that she only has big boobs because she is fat.

And to go along with that, if we happen to break up, do not ask us if we cao hook you up with our friend with the double d -cup. The answer is no. And asking this could quite possibly result in a bitch slap.

#9. No, we don't want to have a threesome. Do not ask.

This goes with #10. No girl, unless she is sexually attracted to other girls (in which case this doesn't apply to you--because she would rather be hooking up the girl than you), wants to have a threesome. We know that it's like your lifelong fantasy, but we aren't down. Why would two girls get together to do the job, when you know fully well that it's easily done by one girl in approximately a minute and a half. And that's being generous. Chances are you have a hard time satisfying your girl, let alone two. We know that you think you're the man, when in actuality, you're more clueless than a freshman on the first day of classes; You don't know where to go or what to do. And don't even think about asking us where something is or if you're going in the right direction. If you need a guide map, you're simply out of luck; not even Sacajawea can save you now.

#8. Do not, and I mean do not, try and hook up with us if you are already committed.

I guess I thought that this one was obvious, but clearly I was wrong. If you have a girlfriend, be faithful to her. Sure college relationships aren't really that serious to any guy, but being the "other woman" just isn't as glamorous as guys make it out to be. Aren't you getting enough from your girl anyways?? Ok that was stupid because apparently you aren't or else you wouldn't be looking to get with us. Just because your girl doesn't know what she's doing doesn't mean you need to cheat. Because guys don't really know what they're doing either. We just tell you what you want to hear. A guy saying that he's good at sex is the same as Michael Vick saying that he is a good dog sitter or that Nicole Richie has a healthy appetite. Guys assume that when sex is bad it's the girl's fault, but most of the time, it's your fault. Don't just think that having a one night stand is going to satisfy your needs or make you better in bed because guaranteed your "other woman" is up for an Oscar nomination for best actress. And here's a little side note for the girls: never have complete faith that your man is not cheating on you. This is how they get away with cheating in the first place.

#7. Do not invite us over to "talk" at 3 a.m. after a night of drinkiog.

Ok some girls are seriously clueless when it comes to this, but most of us know that there sure as hell isn't going to be any talking going on this late. And furthermore, you should be grateful if she accepts this invitation because she knows that there's no way that you actually want to talk to her. Guys hate talking in the first place, and we both know very well that at 3 a.m. you can't possibly want to have an engaging conversation about politics. You're drunk, she's drunk and the only talking she anticipates is telling you that you're doing a crappy job of getting a bra off and that your roommate's snoring sounds rather similar to a fog horn. And if we don't want to "talk", it's not because we're tired, it's because we aren't falling for your line and simply don't want to hook up with you. Why should we even come over in the first place? We don't call you over at 3 a.m. to talk about tampons and the latest episode of Sex and the City. Face it, if we wanted to "talk" at all hours of the morning, we would just have a sleepover with our girlfriends.

#6. Do not try and blame a fight on us.

You get into a fight with your girl over something that you did and to combat your mistake, you tum the fight around on her and something she's done. Then you yell at her, argue with her, etc and she ends up apologizing! Don't be mad that girls think ahead about what they are going to say in a fight, it's your fault that you aren't prepared to go to war. Then you just get frustrated because she's making you look wrong and you respond by yelling and swearing about anything you possibly can. You'd bring up that time in fourth grade when she stole Pogs from her recess boyfriend if it made you look right. When you're wrong, you're wrong. And girls are always right.

#5. Do not, ever, take advantage of a girl when she has had way too much to drink.

So this one is a little bit more difficult, because who's to say that she's over her limit. But if the girl is stumbling around the party, spilling her keg cup and screaming at people who take away her drink, "yous guys is the worstest paaaah-ty poopers evvvvvvverrrrr," it's not really a good idea for you to try and seduce her because you probably won't even have to try. And if you think DC food is bad going down, imagine watching a girl ralph it back up...while she's in your bed. And if she happens to pass out/black out don't even think about it. She could end up not remembering what happened or even worse, not remember saying yes. This leads to a bad reputation for you and also some possible rape charges. And if you honestly need a girl to be trashed to hook up with you, I would reevaluate your pick-up skills.

#4. Do not refer to us to your friends at home as "some girl from school."

If you say this, you're basically digging yourself a hole. "Some girl" = some girl that you are messing around with. Even if you don't care about us enough to refer to us as your girlfriend or the girl you are seeing, this is still a huge no-no. This means that we are just another name on your list, not an actual person. And if you do happen to do this, you should be aware that you are definitely not getting any tonigbt. Or even anytime in the near future. No girl wants to be just some girl to you.

#3. Do not play the "commitment-pbobe" card.

When guys say this I feel bad for the girls that believe them. No guy is a commitment-phobe. He simply just isn't that into you or maybe you're just not the kind of girl that guys date. Guys have no problem hooking up with you but when it comes to a relationship, they want the girl that isn't so quick to put out. Because to be honest, what guy in their right mind is going to pay for the popsicle when the ice cream truck is giving them out for free. If you only want a physical relationship, tell her. She shouldn't have to waste her time with your sorry ass if that isn't what she's interested in. And furthermore, do not continue to tell a girl you care about her, if you don't. This only leads to her getting attached and ultimately upset when you break it off. Be straightforward from the beginning.

#2. Do not assume that you can sleep with a girl.

Ok, this one personally pisses me off more than anything. If you're at a party and a girl is being flirty and friendly with you it's most likely because of the alcohol. But just because she is nice to you does not mean that she is interested in you or that she wants to sleep with you. Can't a girl just be nice?? Then the worst part is that the guy thinks that he understands your flirtiness, he interprets it as the girl wanting him and he then makes a move. When the move is denied the girl is automatically deemed a tease. We aren't teasing you, you idiot. You are just terrible at reading girls and you have failed. Take the loss and move on. After all, you can't wio them all. It's not our fault, Don Juan. And don't assume that just because you think you have game that the girl will hook up with you. There are a million factors that go into why a girl hooks up with one guy and not the otber or why she'll hook up with someone one night but not the next. Or even why she won't hook up with anyone at all. And chances are, your "game" is pretty lame. Never assume, because when you assume you make an ass out of you and me. If you assume that you're definitely going to get that gir; then you are too arrogaot and we know you're compensating for what you lack in other places....if you know what I mean (and if you doo't know, we're talking about your ding-dong).

#1. Do not, under any circumstances, lie about sleeping with a girl.

This goes along with #2. If you cannot close the deal with a girl, for whatever reason, never, ever tell your friends that you did aoyways. I don't care if you thought it was a sure thing because she's a hoe or if you made a bet with Jack from New Hall, this is a serious DON'T! And it happens all the time. If she wasn't interested in you, forget about her. I'm sure that someone else will be interested. Actually... I take that back. If you're lying about the girls you've slept with, chances are you'll be playing World of War Craft in your mom's basement when you're 30. And I mean, come on, this is a small campus. She's going to hear it from someone sooner or later. And when she does, you better believe that there will be hell to pay. If she didn't sleep with you, there's a reason for that. And there's no way that she's going to let anyone believe that she would fool around with the kid that wears Sponge Bob pajama pants and sleeps in a raccear bed. Keep dreaming Jeff Gordon. Doo't embarrass yourself even further by lying about it.

A little puke never hurt anyone



KATRINA POWELL

VOICE COLUMNIST

Let me start this off by saying that I originally planned on writing this article anonymously to avoid pissing anyone off. But I've recently come to the conclusion that people are always going to have their opinions, and if I'm going to write about mioe, I might as well have the balls to back it up.

Since my last article was published--you know, the one about drinking on campus--a lot of people have come up to me and commented oo several aspects of the piece. I've heard many things from many different people and at first I was surprised that you guys actually even read it. But as more people shared their thoughts with me I realized something; They got it all wrong. Sure, the main point of the article was to promote responsibility among young drinkers because in case you hadn't heard, I haven't always been so responsible. But there were a few hidden morals that I now realize that I should have explained io depth.

Depending on who you are, you got a different view of the article. For instance, those who personally know me and happen to throw down a 30-rack with me on Friday nights, found the article comical. But for those of you who have only seen me around campus or sit behind me in class, you were left with an inaccurate message.

These readers figured that I had no personal experience with drinking and deemed me as a somewhat goody two-shoes commenting on an unfamiliar situation. And when a professor of mine presented the article to my class beaming with excitement, it only further proved those theories; Although I did infact enjoy my 15 minutes of fame.

Continued on page 7

A little puke- Continued from page 6

So here's what you missed:

If we're going to be honest, I should start by telling those of you who aren't in-the-know, a little about me. I'm not going to say that I'm the typical drunk college girl because I'm not trying to incriminate myself, but let's put it this way: If you go out this weekend I can guarantee we'll run into each other and have a chat that neither of us will remember. But that's not my main point. The real reason why I'm even writing a follow-up is due to an incident that occurred this past weekend. I wanted people to re-think the way that they party, but most of all, I wanted people to understand what it's like to party too much. Clearly, as I will explain, this attempt was completely ignored.

With Halloween falling this week I found myself among a slew of parties last weekend. And if you're curious as to where I went, it was Pleasant. For those of you who weren't one of the party-goers that night, I found myself completely sober and tending to a friend in need. Not that I objected whatsoever (in case the friend is reading this). If you're wondering who this mystery friend is, you'll have to wonder a bit more, because as I once stated, I am not a nark. But I guess you want me to get on with the story...

So here I am, holding back the hair of Malibu Barbie, wondering if this was really worth the $5 that I paid at the door. But then I realized, I've been here. I've been that girl hunched over the toilet in my skivvies just wishing that I had a good friend to hold my hair back. I cried my eyes out as the older girls laughed hysterically at my expense and I rolled around on the bathroom floor until someone literally had to drag me out. This is the part that I'll allow you to laugh at. Because it's hilarious when I think about it. I'm actually laughing right now. Really? No, not really, but you get the idea.

This wasn't even the bad part of my night. The whole reason why I'm so damn pissed off isn't at all because of the freshman friend that upchucked her stomach contents. It's because of the rest of you. Especially the upperclassmen. And although I would love to call out the specific girls who were rude enough to sit upon their high horses and act as if they had never fallen victim to this behavior, I'll spare them the embarrassment. I like to think of myself as a respectful girl and despite the fact that these lovely ladies only made the situation worse for my friend, I'll just let them read this for themselves and feel the repercussions of their stupidity and ignorance.

Granted that some of this confusion is partly my doing. I guess when I wrote my last article I should have explained it more clearly for those of you who are philosophically challenged, because part of the message was tolerance. Yes. I did mention that freshmen are the #1 group of people to abuse alcohol, but you readers mistook that fact as an excuse to ostracize those freshmen that held true. Ok so perhaps you personally may have never gone beyond your limits, but I can almost guarantee that unless you stay held up in your dorm room with enough provisions to last you through the winter, you've witnessed a friend go through the ordeal. And come on, a little puke is not the end of the world. So what if you see what the person had for lunch or maybe what they didn't have, but regardless, it's not that big of a deal. Well...I guess when you own the party house and someone is vomiting on your kitchen floor I can understand your angst. But if they aim well and hit the toilet accurately you should be understanding and willing to help, knowing that maybe if someone helped you back then, you would have dealt with the situation better. In this case, my mystery friend happened to aim quite well. Perfectly infact.

On a more personal level, for those of you who are reading this and own houses, you're probably cursing me saying that I have no idea what it's like to clean puke, think again my friends. I'll revert back to my high school days, when I used to throw some killer parties at my house. Well, my mother's house to be exact. And they weren't like little get together, have your friends over for some beers and the Pats game parties; They were student body events. I've had people at home recall an incident from a party thrown freshman year in high school (there's actually several facebook groups about these shindigs--quite entertaining if you have some free time). So here I am, in your court. I've thrown parties and I've literally scrubbed chunks out of my carpet while sifting through the regurgitated green beans--thank you very much, Sam Stratton. But that's the price you pay for a party. Deal with it.

Ok back to the story. Mystery Freshman is puking away, and meanwhile, several upperclassmen girls approach me, and begin to question my authority as to bringing Froshy into the upstairs bathroom. I simply explain that a resident of the house instructed us to the second floor as to avoid first floor back-up of the bathroom. But of course, at my response, one of the sweet girls is quick to fire back. So here is drunk girl #1 in my face, dressed as some sort of jail-bait, telling me--better yet, screaming--that I need to leave because I'm just a freshman whore and my friend is too messy.

Once again, in a calm manner, I explain that the poor frosh just needs to yak a bit before i can bring her back to campus and for her information, I am not of freshmen status. Nope. Wrong answer.

So here comes drunk girl #2, dressed in all white as God knows what, with an even more infallible rage. And she stands there and cusses me out as if I'm actually doing her harm. Calling me this, that, whatever you wouldn't want your grandmother to hear you say and here I am taking it. Nice as pie I say, "Come on girls, haven't you been there?" Some more screaming. And I'm just getting peeved because clearly Barbie feels bad enough at this moment in time. The last thing she needs is some older bitches trying to rip her out of the bathroom. And I'll call them bitches now because I, quite frankly, have no respect for people who cannot seem to locate and remove the sticks from their asses. Then comes another one of my friends, who is infact comrades with the girls that at this point in the night, I have deemed as my enemies. She tries to smooth the situation over, failing miserably and only aggravating these girls even more. The drunks then accuse me of not even knowing my friend who has come to help and begin to take their rage out on her.

Finally, this results in an altercation between my friend and I and ultimately Malibu Barbie is dragged downstairs. Of course, we got kicked out and Froshy returned to the dorms. But you know what, I walked right back into that house, got a new cup and had myself a beer. Why let one group of ignorant people ruin my night?

Face the facts people, there is no room for blame here. Stop shoveling your bad feelings onto those who exhibit somewhat poor judgment. I can't say it enough...we have all been there. In fact, a month ago I was held up at Noble for alcohol poisoning. Yup, me. And I'm not even a freshman. Oh Lord, imagine that! And don't even try and pretend like I'm the only person who's ever been to Noble. We all get a little sloppy and public embarrassment happens to everyone. So next time you see a fellow student who is clearly a bit too tipsy, remember that sometimes we all have a few too many. Regurgitation is an uncontrollable body function and does not discriminate based on age. As for the snobs who discriminated against Mystery Girl, I can only hope to catch the sight of you face first in the grass, covered in your own vomit. Despite your beliefs ladies, you aren't perfect. You'll be there sooner or later. And believe me, I won't be caught dead holding your hair back.



Protestant Chaplain's Column

Time and again I hear comments like: "I pray on my own," "When I am out in nature, I commune with God." "Church is boring," and "God loves us so we don't have to go to church." It gets hard defending the importance of making time to attend worship, because those statements are true statements. And yet, worship is a communal act that is rewarding.

So...it is nice having an increasingly large body of scientific evidence which says: Those who attend worship regularly (an average of once a week or more) AND have a positive image of God are:

Healthier
Happier
Live Longer
More Stable

I have seen the longevity stats which indicate an increase in life expectancy of five to seven years, that isn't small stuff.

Incredibly, all the measurements are quite significant. Regular participation in worship has as much impact on ones health, longevity and happiness as those who eat healthy and exercise regularly.

True not everyone who exercises and eats healthy experiences the benefits. Still, I have never heard of a person who exercised regularly say afterward that they felt their time was wasted.

The other part, the "AND", is about having a positive image of God. Jesus didn't teach about an angry God, he taught about a loving and compassionate God.

I could do much more with the comparisons between exercise and faith (money invested, what happens when regularity isn't practiced, etc.) but choose not to.

Incidentally, these findings about faith cross religious lines: Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu.

No matter the faith, what is significant is the call for regularity in worship AND a belief in a compassionate God.

I wonder how it would affect our health, happiness, stability and longevity if we exercised regularly, ate healthy, attended worship regularly and believed in a positive God.

If you haven't been to church for some time, come on back and make it a habit. It will make a difference.

If the God you believe in is an angry God, come on back to church and learn about a loving and compassionate God.

Faith makes a difference! Church makes a difference!

If you want to learn more about how faith makes a difference simply go online and start searching the topic. Lots of scientific studies and articles quickly arise.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. Sadly for the next few weeks I will not be available since I will be participating in a continuing education event; However, Father Dean and Rabbi Joyce are more than capable of assisting. Incidentally, you are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue. Worship takes place whether or not the minister/chaplain is present because Christ is always present wherever two or three are gathered.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

Hop onboard 'The Darjeeling Limited'

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: C+

Some things just get better with age. This adage is often applied to fine wines or cheeses but the same can be said of the work of Wes Anderson. His films are simply always better with repeated viewings. Because of this, my initial impression of his newest outing may not be how I feel a few months from now when I see it again on DVD. Or even how I may feel about it a few days from now. Generally, the more reflection I give an Anderson movie, the more I appreciate it. But I'm not about to make that claim just yet regarding "The Darjeeling Limited." It may prove to be the exception to the rule.

The title of the film (which you will undoubtedly have to repeat at least once when someone asks you what movie you are going to see or saw) is derived from the name of the train the film spends roughly half of its time set in. The Limited is traveling across India and carrying with it three brothers: Francis, Peter and Jack. They have not spoken for a year, leading up to this adventure and are all still coping with the loss of their father.

Francis is the oldest and is played by Owen Wilson. He brings a level of exuberance to the role that makes him instantly watchable and the most memorable part of the cast, as well as the entire film. Adrien Brody plays the more uptight Peter who has a wife at home but appears despondent at the very mention of her name. Then there is the more mysterious Jason Schwartzman. He holds his cards close to his chest and the only insight we are given regarding his past comes from a short vignette starring Natalie Portman that plays before the feature.



photo courtesy of www.foxsearchlight.com

The brothers reunite on the Limited in order to take a spiritual voyage through India. They talk about the past in vagaries but a mid-film flashback helps put it all together. There is some great slow motion here, among Anderson's other stylistic choices, that have become synonymous with his name. The film also includes a surprisingly powerful scene, which is handled well considering it is not typical of his work.

There are some ongoing jokes that prove always good for a chuckle. One includes a designer belt and another Wilson's 'employee' Brendan. But in the end the film does not deliver on the number of laughs I'm accustomed to from an Anderson script. "Darjeeling" has some great moments and is always enjoyable, but to put it bluntly, it isn't all that funny or remarkable. Part of this is due to Owen Wilson being too good for his own... good. He proves to be the most entertaining character by far, and by doing so he leaves his brothers looking dull and boring in his wake.

As mentioned before, upon seeing it again I may pick up on a few jokes I missed or some nuanced performances I overlooked. But at the moment, the idea of sitting through the entire journey again does not interest me. The whole notion of repeat viewings still requires a strong first impression. In this regard "The Darjeeling Limited" did not exactly punch my ticket.

BOTTOM LINE: For the Anderson faithful I'm sure it will be received as another masterpiece. For everyone else, it is a quirky comedy that's worth some consideration.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovicDude

"No World For Tomorrow" Coheed and Cambria's finest hour?

Chris Dondoros
A&E Editor

Coheed and Cambria seem to be the type of band that polarizes people. It may be frontman Claudio Sanchez's high-pitched vocals, reminiscent of Rush's Geddy Lee. It may also be due in part to their lyrics, which tie together from album to album to form a sci-fi rock opera, based on a series of comic books, "The Amory Wars," written by Sanchez himself. Coheed and Cambria don't merely write concept albums, no - they're a concept unto themselves. Their newest release, "No World For Tomorrow," represents not only the thrilling conclusion to the saga, but solidifies their reputation as one of rock music's most creative, ambitious and exciting bands.

First and foremost, honestly, I have no idea what the hell the concept behind these albums is about. Sure, it's a creative concept to tell a single story over the course of four entire albums (!), but it's like if someone tried to tell you the entire "Star Wars" saga through a series of rock songs. Except maybe twice as long, and with more twists and turns than an episode of "The Young And The Restless", America's favorite soap opera.

That being said, most of the time this is hardly noticeable, as each song has the ability to hold its own from a lyrical standpoint.

From start to finish though, the music carries Sanchez's grand vision on its shoulders, crafting a story in itself along the way. As a vocalist and a musician, Sanchez shows a whole new level of maturity, with layered vocals and harmonies reminiscent of previous releases – but on an entirely different level. While this record is their most straightforward "rock" album thus far, they don't stray far from their sound, with technically complex guitar riffs, emotive solos, epic songwriting and a penchant for creating catchy, sing-along melodies, both with instrument and voice. In the end, Sanchez and company create a masterpiece of an album, one that stands not only head and shoulders above their previous efforts, but the best efforts of most of their peers.

4.5/5

Hardcover Non-Fiction

Top 5 at a glance

(New York Times)



1. I AM AMERICA (AND SO CAN YOU!), by Stephen Colbert, Richard Dahm, Paul Dinello and Allison Silverman
2. CLAPTON, by Eric Clapton
3. MY GRANDFATHER'S SON, by Clarence Thomas
4. THE AGE OF TURBULENCE, by Alan Greenspan
5. IF I DID IT, by the Goldman Family

Tracy Kidder



Mountains Beyond Mountains

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder will discuss this year's Campus Book Mountains Beyond Mountains on Tuesday, November 13th at 7 p.m. in Dever Auditorium

The Voice

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

a mix of MAgic

The custom of trick or treating began during the 9th century in Europe. Christians roamed villages asking for "soul cakes". Each cake symbolized a prayer the beggars said for the deceased relatives of the giver.

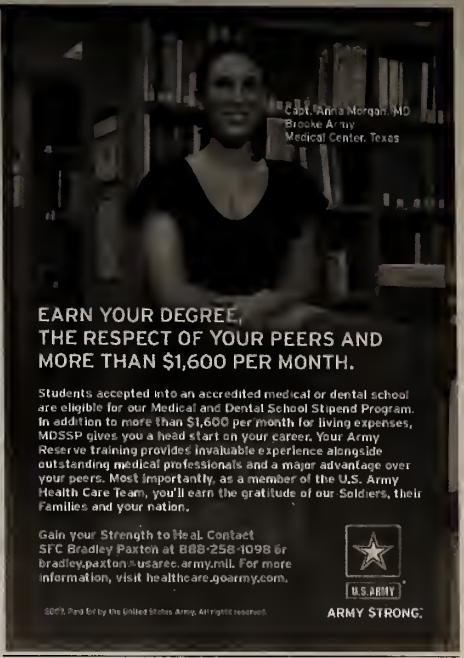
Happy Halloween!

Created by Michelle Ahern

BIGGEST SINGLE WEEKEND GROSS

1. 5/4/2007	Spider-Man 3	$151,116,516
2. 7/7/2006	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	$135,634,554
3. 5/18/2007	Shrek the Third	$121,629,270
4. 5/3/2002	Spider-Man	$114,844,116
5. 5/25/2007	Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End	$114,732,820
6. 5/20/2005	Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith	$108,435,841
7. 5/21/2004	Shrek 2	$108,037,878
8. 5/26/2006	X-Men: The Last Stand	$102,750,665
9. 11/18/2005	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	$102,335,066
10. 6/4/2004	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban	$93,687,367

according to "http://www.the-numbers.com"
Compiled by Bill George



Holiday Craft Fair

11/10/07

Saturday, Nov. 10
Holiday Craft Fair
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Scanlon Living Room

If you saw one, you 'Saw' 'em all

BILL GEORGE
THE MOVIE DUDE

Grade: D

Here we are again. Another Halloween comes and goes, as does another entry into the unending "SAW" franchise. The annual release of a new installment has become an institution in America. So how does IV fare against the rest? Not quite, but almost as bad as III.

If you have not seen the first three films leading up to this one, I'd deem viewing IV a bad decision. Every film interweaves with the next to create an intricate, and ridiculous, on-going story line. The basis for all the films is that Tobin Bell plays a serial killer (kind of) who is dubbed 'Jigsaw.' That moniker comes from the complicated puzzles that he forces his victims to figure out before their almost guaranteed doom. Hence he is only 'sort of' a killer because he does not technically commit murder.

The curious thing about Jigsaw is that he died at the end of "SAW III." Which proved to be a great career move for Tobin Bell. He has more screen time dead than alive. Approximately half of "SAW IV" is told through flashbacks that recreate Jigsaw's back-story, including his very first victim and trap. In fact, Jigsaw's first trap proves to be the most ingenious in the series.



www.saw4.com/.../wallpapers/saw4-wallpaper-1.jpg

However, much like "SAW III," this film centers around a character that is being tested, but not in a single scenario. The character, SWAT team leader Officer Rigg, plays a role in a group of other tests. He moves from location to location, and continues to come upon other people who Jigsaw has set up for death.

This type of set-up is not nearly as gripping or interesting as the first film in which one scenario is the focus of the entire picture and the people involved are the leads. What we know of the characters that die in IV is next to nothing, making their pain not as engrossing. It is when the audience stays with a character for an hour and a half that they can make his or her pain their own.

This film is also the most graphic in the series. With each additional film the level of on-screen violence and gore has increased dramatically. This ratcheting up does a disservice to the film as well as the genre. It is the implied agony in the first "SAW" that made it so attention grabbing. The audience was forced into using their imagination and visualizing how horrible it would be to saw off one's own leg. If it was shown on-screen it was only briefly. Otherwise the screaming, sound effects and music took care of the rest. That philosophy has gone out the window and the latest films now stand as nothing more than a celebration of blood and guts.

This movie had no effect on me besides allowing me to appreciate how original and creative the original "SAW" was. Otherwise there is not much to say. People who like the franchise will come out in droves for the latest iteration and those who don't shouldn't touch it with a 10 foot pole. Regardless of which category you fall into, I look forward to having this same discussion again next year.

BOTTOM LINE: Better than III... which doesn't say much. Not even close to rekindling the excitement or innovation of the original and with every passing year, the possibility of that happening seems to slip further and further away.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovicDude

Minn. woman shot after answering web ad

JIM ADAMS
CHAO XIONG
CURT BROWN

MINNEAPOLIS STAR

MINNEAPOLIS - Despite an uneasy feeling in her gut about the person she was about to meet, Katherine Ann Olson showed up for her new baby-sitting job at a dilapidated house in Savage, Minn..

She was there to watch a child between 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday after being hired by "Amy" through an ad posted on the popular Craigslist website. Before heading out, she mentioned to her roommate that her new employer "seemed kind of strange."

She placed her last cell phone call to Amy's phone just before 9 a.m. A short-time later, authorities say, she was met at the house by 19-year-old Michael John Anderson, a paint ball fanatic who dropped out of an altemative high school and was shy around women.

Authorities say Anderson lured Olson, 24, to his family's split-level house, somehow got her upstairs to his bedroom, where he shot her in the back with a .357 handgun, dragged her downstairs and tied her ankles in red twine.

The new details in the Craigslist killing emerged Tuesday as Anderson was charged in Scott County District Court with second-degree intentional murder. At one point, he told police that another person had killed her and that a friend "thought it would be funny."

Authorities, however, say that evidence points to Anderson acting alone.

They say he stuffed Olson's body in a sleeping bag in her trunk and drove five blocks away before ditching the car at Kraemer Nature Preserve.

He wrapped her crushed cell phone in a blood-smeared towel -- that had his oame written on it with a black marker -- and stuffed it in nearby trash can, authorities said.

His motive bewildered authorities and Anderson's friends. After first denying the cell-phone contact with Olson, he later told police he witnessed another person kill her.

A friend "thought it would be funny," he told police, according to the complaint.

Authorities said there was no sign of a sexual assault. They found the handgun and a spent shell casing in his blood-spattered bedroom. A trail of Olson's blood showed her body had been dragged down the stairs. The steps had been cleaned but not the risers, according to authorities, who declined to speculate on a motive.

"The only person who knows that right now is the defendant," Scott County Attorney Patrick Ciliberto said. "There is certainly no sense in her death. She was a talented, bright young woman and her life is gone and there's no explanation for it."

At Olson's visitation on Tuesday at Richfield Lutheran Cburch, her mother, Nancy Olson, flashed a bright smile as she stood by her daughter's casket and watched a video of her daughter portraying Maria in a church community theater's production of "The Sound of Music."

Neither of Olson's parents talked about the case Tuesday, choosing instead to celebrate their daughter's life as shown through dozens of photographs. Funeral services will be held Wednesday for Olson, a St. Olaf College graduate whose family described her as "a joy."

In an earlier e-mailed statement, her father, the Rev. Rolf Olson. a pastor at the church. said that Katherine "believed in the essential goodness of humanity, sometimes naively so."

O n Facebook.com, a social networking site, more than 1,200 people had signed up to pay respects.



Photo courtesy of http://www.keprtv.com/news/national/10861851.html

Anderson, handcuffed and gazing blankly from beneath black bangs, was held on $1 million bail. He could face first-degree murder charges once a grand jury is convened.

It's believed to be the first homicide connected to Craigslist, where people trade merchandise and hunt for jobs. A warning appeared on the site Tuesday in the section of "Education" jobs, which includes a number of ads seeking nannies and baby-sitters. Under the heading, "Warning -- for those who don't watch the news," the ad read: "Someone who answered a Craigslist ad for a nanny job ended up dead. Be careful out there."

Tony Dotson, 19, is one of Anderson's closest friends and a former neighbor. He recalled how Anderson introduced him to Craiglist about a year ago when the pair went to Minnetonka, Minn., to get a motor for a go-cart they were building.

"I'm still so confused on why," Dotson said. "I don't even know what I'd say to him. I'm just blank."

Anderson loved rebuilding engines, shooting paint balls and archery arrows at targets in a nearby park, according to Dotson and Jake Von Bank, another longtime friend and neighbor. They'd often hold Halo parties, hooking up TVs and playing video games.

They insist Anderson was never violent and seldom showed interest in women.

"He would never raise a fist to anybody," Dotson said. "He was always shy around girls. That's what baffles me." Anderson studied auto mechanics at Dakota County Technical College, according to his friends, but dropped out last fall from Cedar Alternative High School in Eagan. After working in auto parts warehouses, he landed a jet-fueling job at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport a few months ago.

He was working nights at the airport, where police arrested him Friday.

He lived at his family's two-story home with his parents. His father drives a truck after being laid off as a Northwest Airlines mechanic. Mike is the youngest of Steven and Barbara Anderson's three children.

His parents attended Tuesday's brief bail hearing. held in a glassed-in jail courtroom in Shakopee, Minn..

"Let's all let the judicial process take its course," said defense attorney Robert M. Speeter. Dotson and Von Bank said the last time the saw Anderson, in September, they noticed he had cut his longtime mullet haircut. They'd often tease him about his hair and the turquoise color of his house, which they called "Aquafresh toothpaste." He'd always chuckle at the playful ribbing.

"He said he had get back into the routine of sleeping" after working nights at the airport, Dotson said. "He seemed fine. Just fine. This whole thing gets you thinking hard. It's like a bad dream."

21 of 28 convicted in Madrid train bombings

TRACY WILKINSON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MADRID, Spain -- A Spanish court Wednesday convicted 21 men in the 2004 bombings of Madrid's train system, the deadliest terror attack in the country's history, but acquitted an Egyptian national whom authorities once touted as the mastermind.

The mixed verdicts for a total of 28 defendants, contained in a 700-page ruling and read in a heavily guarded courtroom on the outskirts of the capital, capped a case that exposed the workings of Islamic terror networks in the heart of Europe and foreshadowed other attacks that would follow in London and elsewhere.

A total of 191 people were killed and nearly 2,000 injured when bombs hidden in backpacks ripped through four commuter trains during the morning rush hour March 11, 2004. The investigation eventually revealed a "franchise" of militants who were inspired by al-Qaida but who originated in northern Africa and had lived and worked in Spain for years.

The trial, which started in February, has reminded Spaniards of their continued vulnerability to attack. The proceedings were used as a political lightning rod in a bitter fight between the leftist government, elected just days after the bombings, and the right-wing party that lost power.

Three defendants, a Spaniard and two Moroccans, were convicted of mass murder and sentenced to thousands of years in prison. Under Spanish law, however, they will serve no more than 40 years.

Eighteen other defendants were found guilty of serious but lesser charges, including membership in an armed terrorist organization. The rest were acquitted.

A gasp went up in the courthouse, packed with survivors of the bombings, families of the dead and scores of journalists, when some of the acquittals were read. Several relatives said later they were furious and disappointed.

"I do not like that murderers are being let loose," said Pilar Manjon, whose 20-year-old son was killed in the bomb blasts and who now leads a victims group.

"This is not about reprisals or vengeance," said Jesus Rodriguez, who lost most of his hearing in the bombings. "But society needs a solution, and this has not been made clear."

Perhaps the most startling acquittal for some at the court was that of Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed, once viewed as the mastermind, who is in an Italian prison and who listened to the verdict by teleconference. In Italy, he was convicted of belonging to a terrorist organization and is serving a sentence that recently was reduced from 10 to eight years.

Endika Zulueta, Ahmed's attorney, argued that much of the evidenee collected against his client was questionable. The case against Ahmed relied heavily on wiretaps conducted by Italian investigators that captured conversations that might have been translated incorrectly, Zulueta maintained.

In one of those conversations, investigators said, Ahmed claimed the Madrid bombings as his projeet. Other testimony suggested, however, that he was a braggart who had little active role in terrorism.

"This verdict was not a surprise," Zulueta said after the ruling was read. "In this case, justice was served."

Aries (March 21-April 19)



November just isn't your month. Try staying indoors as much as possible to avoid almost certain disappointment with everything you try to do. If you are planning to be social try and stay surrounded by Geminis or Leos. It seems like everybody else is out to get you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



The Cancer sun seems to be on your side --at least for now. So cash in on it in any and every way that you can. That business deal you were planning to make: Go for it! That robbery you and the boys have been scheming over for weeks: Now's the time! That little old lady who's always kicking it at the bus stop: Jack her! You won't even get caught! It's in the stars for you. You should be able to make a considerable amount of loot this period with your newly given astrological passport. Just watch out for Mercury's retrograde turn on the 22nd.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



Your Mercury ruler is being lifted by good 'ole Jupiter, so thoughts of the far future may be entering your head. Could be good. Could be bad. Most likely though: It's gonna be bad. That is unless you start taking some chances and mixing it up a little bit. Why do the same old thing over and over again? You just get the same results. This is the perfect time for you to take some risks. Go take a ride on the city bus. Run outside in the middle of the day screaming "I'm glad our sleeper cell has been awakened!" Comb your hair. See how people respond. This is the only way things are going to brighten up for you. The only way.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



Consider taking a break from it all this month. Set an appointment up for a tour of your local looney bin. Friends and family won't be tempted to bother you there or ask to come along. They have special activities, three cooked meals a day and the best part is you don't have to have cash up front when you make the reservation.

Leo (July 23-August 22)



Your 12th house is sunny. That's some iffy astrological real estate so it's time for you to take a back seat. Don't be so up in everybody's face. This little period you're in right now is not designed for you to be in the spotlight. You're not the focus right now. This may be hard for you to accept, but the sooner you get it the better off you are. Don't make so many phone calls. Don't get so into everything. It's all right to be apathetic right now. Just be nonchalant about the whole thing. Your relationships, let 'em coast. Your finances, let 'em go. Family, screw 'em. Who cares. Just wait it out. You'll be much better off this way. It's in the stars.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Venus is really, really kissing up to your Mercury ruler. No, I mean really. They haven't been like this for ages. What does this mean? You need to find a Leo to hang around. Point blank. You have to let them guide you. Let them direct your steps. Be a protégé to their mentorship. It will definitely pay off for you in the long run. Just trust the stars. Be careful of sleeping with the Leo too much though. It may prevent you from meeting that Aquarius you've had your eyes on for so long. Eat as much as you want. You shouldn't get much fatter this period. Eat carbs. Eat calories. Eat French fries and chicken. Have a blast.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)



The sun is beaming down on Jupiter...for you! The moon of Tupac Shakur is riding your ninth house. Thug life! Now's the time for you to act. Those busters that have been screwing with you: Blast on 'em! Those fools that always wanna talk crap about decisions you've made: Kill 'em! Those roaches. I can't believe they're still breathing. Slaughter them all without mercy or care. Their end is nigh. How dare they screw with you for so damn long. Murder them. You'll get away with it. It's in the stars. Watch.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)



You are such a bitch. Why is that? Right now the Cancer sun and Uranus in Pisces should allow you to lose some weight and gain some weird friends you wouldn't normally kick it with. Go with the flow. This is your chance to go in a different direction. Just don't be such a bitch. That could screw it all up. All these stars coming together with all these planets and you, just sitting there, bitching. Say something to that character in your life who you haven't seen in a minute. Call your folks on the telephone. Try and think about other people.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



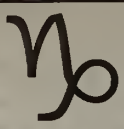
Stop panicking and make your move. You can't wait forever. Jupiter is kicking it with your little Libra friend so don't toss out too many "f-you's" before mercury enters your sixth house. Your seventh house would be a different story, but this is your sixth house for God's sake. Crap happens in your sixth house. Remember that glass you broke? Sixth house. Remember when you dented your bumper. Sixth house. Remember when you had that weird rash and had to go to the hospital? Oh yeah! Sixth house. I hope you're not itchy anymore.

Continued on page 12

Continued from Page 15

Now's not the time for hesitation. Jupiter don't like that crap! Bust a move like a 1980s hip hop movie and get out there. Do your thing. Even if you screw everything up you still have the whole rising of Uranus to look forward to. It's in the stars.

Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 21)



Not only are you one of the most boringly conventional signs, but you are also ambitious, manipulative, social-climbing control freaks who carry the weight of the world on their shoulders and spend much of their time being all-round misery-arses. In fact going out with one of you must be like dating a disturbing cross between Jeffrey Archer and a teenage Goth. The one redeeming feature you have, however, is that you are very good at keeping a secret, especially one of your own. Watch out guys, Capricorn males will always sleep with your girlfriend.

Aquarius
(Jan.22 - Feb. 18)



Although friendly to everyone, you are quite obsessive about you personal freedom and can be prone to keeping an emotional distance in a relationship. Then there's your general eccentricity to contend with, as Aquarians are prone to doing things just for the hell of it - such as setting fire to someone's grand piano, super gluing your roommates' eyelids shut while they're asleep or turning up to their mother's funeral in a clown costume.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)



Sun cancer is bad but your Cancer sun is good. Take advantage. Uranus is up in there too. Damn! You should be makin' big bank this period. Whether you work a nine to five, rob and steal or just hustle, however you do it it's your time to shine. It's in the stars.

HOROSCOPE PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.ASTROLOGY.ABOUT.COM

AND

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About ASTROLOGY and palmistry: they are good because they make people vivid and full of possibilities. They are communism at its best. Everybody has a birthday and almost everybody has a palm.

Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

We need not feel ashamed of flirting with the zodiac. The zodiac is well worth flirting with.

D.H. Lawrence

2007 World Series champs!!!!

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

The World Series trophy is ours once again. Sunday night's victory against the Colorado Rockies completed the sweep and brought the World Series trophy back to Boston.

Game four was filled with excitement and nervousness. Jon Lester pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings and Jonathan Papelbon closed it out effectively to keep the Red Sox lead and win 4-3.

In the later innings of the ball game, the score got tighter and it looked like the Rockies could capitalize, but the Red Sox defense and offense stepped up. Jacoby Ellsbury made a remarkable play in left field to keep the Rockies from scoring, and Coco Crisp was put in center field for his defensive capabilities. On the offensive, Mike Lowell and pinch hitter Bobby Kielty both homered to give the Red Sox a little security.

The final pitch was thrown at 12:05 a.m., and then the celebration began. Coors Field was covered in a sea of Red Sox players and camera crews dying to get interviews with the players. After celebrating on the field, the Red Sox moved it to the locker room where champagne fights persisted.

Mike Lowell was awarded the series MVP, and he was well deserving of that award. In Game four alone, Mike Lowell had a clutch home run, a double- and two runs scored. His ability to come through in the field and at the plate is what got him this honorable award.

Red Sox Nation also went a little crazy after the final pitch of the ball game was thrown. The streets of Boston were filled with people celebrating the Red Sox second World Series Championship in four years. It's better than waiting another 86 years, that's for sure.

Once again, our very own Westfield State College campus had its own celebration in honor of the Red Sox victory. The celebration began at the senior apartments with the singing of Sweet Caroline and chants of "Yankees Suck!" Eventually, the celebration migrated throughout campus with noisemakers, and more chanting and singing.

Now that baseball season is officially over until Spring Training starts up, Red Sox Nation will have to see what kind of changes Theo Epstein has in store for the team. Free agency and the winter meetings should be an interesting time this off season to see who comes back, and who doesn't.

But for now let's just celebrate the fact that the Red Sox are champions once again. Congratulations to the Boston Red Sox for taking home another World Series Championship!

Patriots off to record breaking start

Colby Henderson
Sports Editor

As the NFL closes out the first half of the 2007 season, the big story has been the emergence of the New England Patriots as arguably the most dominant team in the league.

New England has started the season 8-0 for the first time in franchise history, and has only finished one game with a lead of less than 21, which occurred in week five vs. the Cleveland Browns where they won by a measly 17 points.

Despite the record breaking start, this doesn't come as a complete surprise to many Patriots fans, who had high expectations for the team following an offseason in which they acquired a pair of pro bowl caliber receivers in Randy Moss and Donte Stallworth, as well as pro bowl linebacker Adalius Thomas. These three major acquisitions, along with several other key signings including wide receiver, Wes Welker, and running back, Sammy Morris, made the Patriots an early Super Bowl favorite.

The Patriots are coming off their most impressive week to date, defeating the Washington Redskins by a score of 52-7, in a game that was supposed to be much closer than it turned out. Head Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady entered the game looking for their first career wins against the Redskins, the only team left in the league in which both had not defeated. Ironically, Brady joins Peyton Manning and Brett Favre as the only three quarterbacks to collect wins against all 31 NFL teams, all three of which accomplished the feat in week 8.



photo courtesy of http://sports.espn.go.com

The Patriots first half stats are unfathomable, including eight straight games in which they had 400 or more yards in total offense. The majority of those stats are coming from Tom Brady, who is putting up MVP-like numbers, including 30 touchdown passes through eight games. Brady is on pace to shatter Manning's single season touchdown record (49) with a projected 60 touchdown passes. Brady is also on pace to break Ken Anderson's record for completion percentage in a season (70.55 percent) as he was at 73.8 percent heading into week 8.

A lot can be said about this team beyond Brady. The running game had a surprise boost early in the season with newly acquired Morris. He stepped in to fill the hole left by Corey Dillon, and rushed for over 100 yards in two of the six games he appeared in, before getting injured in week 6 against the Dallas Cowboys. The Patriots receiving corps has also experienced a tremendous face lift after finishing the 2006 season as one of the worst in the league, led by Reche Caldwell. The new group of receivers is led by Moss, who came into week 8 with a league leading 10 touchdown receptions, including two amazing grabs against the Dolphins in week 7.

The big test for the Patriots will be next week as they travel to Indianapolis for a rematch against the undefeated and defending champion, Indianapolis Colts. The Colts defeated the Patriots in last year's AFC championship after the Patriots failed to hold a 15 point lead at halftime. Expect this loss to be fresh in the mind of the Patriot's and especially Tom Brady who suffered his first career loss on turf in the championship game. In a rivalry that is rapidly becoming the second largest in Boston sports, this upcoming matchup proves to be the biggest regular season game these two teams have played thus far. Look for an offensive shoot out with the Patriots coming out on top 42-27.

Westfield defeated, but not without a fight

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

WESTFIELD- Despite a record setting day for Westfield State senior wide receiver Scott McIntyre, Westfield was defeated by the Fitchburg State Falcons 49-40 on a rain soaked Alumni Field, Sat. Oct. 27.

Coming into the game, McIntyre had 62 receptions on the season, 11 behind the school record. In the game he would record 13 receptions for 157 yards and a touchdown, breaking the record once held by Westfield receiver Matt Yvon in 2002.

McIntyre was not the only one to have a record setting day on Saturday. Westfield quarterback Dan Cohen broke the record for most passing attempts (56) and pass completions (22) in a single game, while throwing for 349 yards and four touchdowns.

The Falcons offense was even more impressive, featuring freshman tailback, Marlon Thornton, who rushed for a season-high 256 yards on 44 carries and four touchdowns.

Despite this, the Owls defense started the game off on a good note. On Fitchburg's first snap of the game, their quarter back, Jim Miller, threw an interception to Westfield junior linebacker, Jay Fielding.



Senior Scott McIntyre had another stellar day with 13 catches for 157 yards. McIntyre now has 75 catches this year, which is a single-season school record. Photo By David Harris-Fried

The Owls offense quickly turned the interception into points, scoring in just four plays to put them up 7-0. However, on Westfield's next possession Fitchburg would get an interception of their own.

Continued on page 14

Westfield wins volleyball crown; halts long Bridgewater conference streak

BRIDGEWATER– The Bridgewater State College volleyball team saw its 12-year reign as MASCAC champions come to an end this past, Oct. 23, as the Bears dropped a 3-0 (32-30, 30-22, 30-20) decision to the Owls of Westfield State College.

With the victory, Westfield captured its first MASCAC regular season title in 20 years and will host the conference postseason tournament on Saturday, Nov. 3. Bridgewater had won 12 straight MASCAC titles beginning in 1995. The Bears also saw their 114-match winning streak versus conference opponents come to an end. BSC had not lost to a MASCAC team since the 1994 season.

"It was very gratifying," said Westfield State coach Fred Glanville. "We played well and responded well to the pressure. We got a little rattled at the beginning then started to play hard again."

Westfield led the first game by as many as 13 points before Bridgewater came storming back to take its only lead the entire match. The Owls regrouped, however, to pull out the key 32-30 first-game victory.

Westfield also jumped out to double digit leads in the second and third games but Bridgewater had no answers.

"We had a balanced attack and our defenders really picked up everybody," said Glanville. "And we have more hitters this year."

Westfield, 13-12 overall, 5-0 conference, was led by senior libero Krista Grifoni who recorded a match-high 35 digs. Senior outside hitter Morgan Hosking tallied 11 kills to go along with 3 aces, while senior setter Elissa Gencreux registered a match-high 27 assists.

"Morgan was hitting bombs," said Glanville. "And Krista and Elissa controlled the tempo. These are the three seniors on our team and their leadership and experience really showed tonight."

Sophomore standout Stephanie Bartkus, who was sidelined this past weekend with an injury, also played well with eight kills, 19 digs, and three blocks. Sophomore Alyssa Thibodeau had five kills and two blocks.

Senior middle hitter, Kelsey Collasius paced the Bears with 17 kills to increase her MASCAC-leading total to 412. Collasius now has 1,615 kills for her career as she is just the second player in BSC volleyball history to eclipse the 1,600-kill barrier.

Also highlighting the match for Bridgewater were senior setter, Erica Kelley, and junior, Elsa Apostoli who combined for 31 assists. BSC really struggled on serve as the Bears committed 14 serving errors in the match.

The Bears will host the BSC Halloween Classic on Friday and Saturday. Westfield travels to Western Connecticut state University on Thursday night for a 7 o'clock match with the Colonials.

Red Sox: World Champs...and not so sore on the eyes either

Jenn Krok
Managing Editor

So I'm sure all you know by now that the Red Sox won the World Series, and if you don't, well then you're just out of the loop.

Now I'm not a die-hard baseball fan, but lately I've been intrigued. I'll even admit that I fell asleep through the 2004 World Series. Many of you may be thinking that I'm insane. I know…we were all witnessing history. But how many people were actually hardcore Sox fans before the 2004 World Series? A lot I'm sure, but then there were the people who just jumped on the bandwagon.

Along with the Red Sox Bandwagon came all of the ridiculous paraphernalia like David Ortiz Christmas ornaments and Red Sox Santa hats…that's a bit much. And what's up with the camo, checkered and hot pink Sox Hats? Last time I checked their colors were primarily red and blue.

I honestly feel bad for all of the hardcore sox fans, in this case college students, that can't make it to Fenway because of time or money constraints while bandwagoners that just want to be part of Red Sox Nation get to go. It's just not fair. It's like a slap in the face.

As my boyfriend once put it, "You could always tell that the girls weren't true fans because they would come to our dorm and leave as soon as the game was over while all the guys sat there depressed because they lost."

This is not to say that there aren't any die-hard, female Red Sox fans, because there are. A few of the my friends and I give them so much credit for having the time and dedication to follow a team so intricately. As for myself, lately the Red Sox have not only become that team that has made me start to appreciate baseball, but they have been a nice source of eye candy as well.

Girls, real Sox fan or not, you know I'm right. So here is the order of the lineup that has made me look forward to 2008.

Jason Varitek
Jacoby Ellsbury
Dustin Pedroia
Jonathan Papelbon
Josh Beckett
Eric Gagne
J.D. Drew
Mike Lowell, hopefully he resigns.
Manny Ramirez
Hideki Okajima
Javier Lopez

And my personal favorite….Gabe Kapler….bring him back!

Blood, sweat and tears: The life of a WSC Cheerleader

Katrina Powell
Voice Columnist

Two hours a day, five-days a week and 12 months a year. And they say cheerleading isn't a sport?! The life of a cheerleader is no easy route; Behind the bright white smiles and sparkling pom-poms is a life of hardship and struggle--but in the end, it's all worth it.

Here at Westfield State there is a team that the school deems as a "club," but is one of the toughest sports to participate in: The All-Girl Cheerleading Squad. Led by coaches Lisa Moskow and Sara Raymond, this spirit squad puts their entire heart and soul into what they do. Long hours go into perfecting a stunt or routine, but once the girls hear the roar of the crowd, they know that they've succeeded.

The All-Girl squad is a full commitment, cheering at football games, as well as men's and women's basketball. "The team also works on routines set to music for performances at half-time and pep rallies. These intricate and fast-paced displays highlight their athleticism and require a great deal of preparation," comments Coach Moskow.

Much like other sports that participate in pre-season, the girls are required to attend a summer camp where they hone their skills. Perhaps you have heard a cheerleader toss around some unfamiliar lingo, as cheerleading has evolved into having its own vocabulary; Scorpion, Liberty, Chairs, Table Top. And no, they aren't talking about animals, freedom or furniture. These are just some terms to describe a few of the stunts that you may see at a football or basketball game. Cheerleading involves elevating team members into a stunt while keeping the intensity of the crowd at high levels. These stunts require a lot of practice and patience, as they often do not stick on the first try. However, the All-Girl team is always incorporating new and exciting stunts into their routines.

When there is a Saturday morning football game, you better believe that the All-Girl Squad is up at the same time as the football players, practicing hard for the exciting day ahead of them. No matter what the weather--rain, snow or shine, you can catch the sight of sparkly bloomers from the bleachers. In fact, just last weekend, the squad donned poncho's throughout the Fitchburg vs. Westfield football game. Coach Moskow says, "It's physically exhausting but rewarding, especially when the fans' participate and the team plays well."

But with every sport comes consequence. And cheerleaders have been known to suffer some of the worst injuries. In one study conducted by The American Journal of Sports Medicine, 59 percent of subjects were involved in accidents that resulted in a severe head injury, and 10 percent received a serious spinal cord contusion. Only two cheerleaders were found to have been permanently disabled (paralysis) due to a fracture .

Looking to catch the girls at a competition? "Many of the team members compete around the region with an open All-Star team in addition to cheering for WSC. This has only been possible for the past few years due to the increase in talent and dedication of the athletes," explains Moskow. When the squad puts their show on the road at competitions they are pushing themselves to the limit. Those five minutes of competitive cheerleading, where your heart is racing and your hands are shaking, is what you have prepared for all year. In the end, all the practice time, sacrifices, early mornings and injuries are ultimately worth it. And when an All-Girl squad member looks up into the crowd and sees a little girl in a mock cheer uniform screaming for joy, she knows that her hard work is greatly appreciated.

1. www.ajs.sagepub.com

Westfield v. Fitchburg - Continued from page 13

On a 3rd and three Cohen would be looking to pass, however, with it raining all day he would drop the snap. Quickly picking the ball up, Cohen threw an ill-advised pass toward the sideline. Falcon cornerback, Alex Bourassa, would intercept the ball and return it 34 yards to tie the score at 7-7.

Cohen would be picked off again late in the first quarter leading to another Falcon touchdown making the score 14-7, Fitchburg.

In the second quarter both teams would score fast and often. Westfield's freshman wide receiver C.J. Franklin would get the first touchdown, juking past a half dozen Falcon defenders on his way to the end zone, making the score 14-13.

However, Fitchburg would answer with two scoring drives of their own. The first being an eight play, 72 yard drive, capped with a quarterback sneak from Fitchburg's Jim Miller. The second drive would consist of just two plays, one being a Miller 59 yard bomb to make the score 28-13.

The Owls offense would continue the shoot out on their ensuing drive, scoring on six plays to make it, 28-20.

The Falcons would then answer back yet again, this time scoring on a Thorton five yard plunge making the score 35-20.

Westfield would end the half with another score from Franklin making it 35-26, Fitchburg.

Starting the second half, both teams offenses slowed down a little bit, swapping possessions for almost the entire third quarter. Late in the quarter though, a questionable fumble call sparked the Falcons offense.

Getting the ball with a short field, Fitchburg got in the end zone in just three plays to extend their lead to, 42-26.

However, on Westfield's ensuing kickoff return they would answer back, as the Westfield special teams would create a perfect wedge and sophomore kick returner, Ryan Leroux, would scamper 70 yards to make the score 42-34.

Entering the fourth quarter the Owls would get the ball and with them only being down by eight points, a comeback was possible. However, after a ten play drive, which ended on a fourth down sack of Cohen, the comeback seemed out of reach.

It seemed even more out of reach when the Falcons scored on their next drive to make the score 49-34.

Westfield would not give up though, scoring late in the fourth on a 10 yard catch from McIntyre to make the score 49-40, but a failed two-point conversion the comeback was too little too late.

The Owls now stand at 4-4 on the season and will be on the road in their last game of the year at Worchester State this Saturday.

Big Three look to bring Celtics back to promise land

Colby Henderson
Sports Editor

The year was 1986. Ronald Reagan was president, Platoon won the Academy Award for Best Picture and Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo was born. 1986 also brought the Celtics last NBA championship, the third in six years, and launched the Celtics to the peak of the Boston sports world.

Fast forward 21 years and the Celtics have yet to win, or even appear in a national championship game since '87, when they lost to the Lakers in six. However, the expectations for this new Celtics team are far greater than any Celtics team since Bird, McHale and Parrish.

The Boston Celtics begin their much anticipated 2007-08 season this Friday as they host the Washington Wizards. The Celtics are coming off of a monumental offseason in which they acquired superstar forward, Kevin Garnett, from the Minnesota Timberwolves in exchange for talented young forward, "Big" Al Jefferson, among others. The Celtics also acquired veteran guard, Ray Allen, from the Seattle Supersonics, in a draft day deal that flipped the number five overall pick Seattle's way, along with guards, Wally Szczerbiak and Delonte West. The two trades give the Celtics a combined 21 all star appearances and the career scoring average of 65.6 points per game between Pierce, Garnett and Allen.

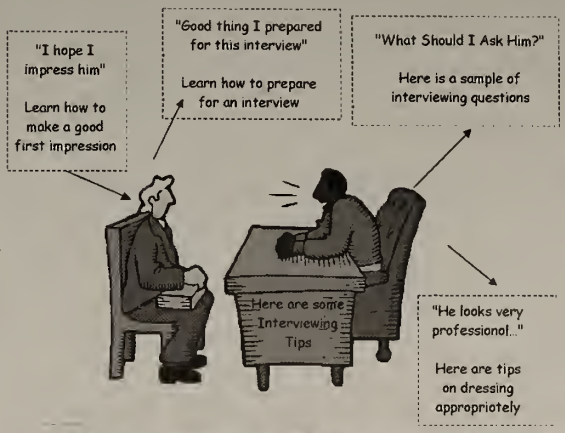


So who is to say these two players will turn around a franchise that has had one deep playoff run in over 12 years? It will take more than The Big Three to propel this team to the top of the standings; It will also take the help of a young, inexperienced point guard in Rajon Rondo who will get the opportunity to be a full time starter for the first time in his young career. Also, the health of injury prone center, Kendrick Perkins, is key, due to the lack of depth at the center position.

The Celtics main competition in the Eastern Conference will be the Detroit Pistons, who still have the core nucleus of their championship team intact, minus Ben Wallace; The Chicago Bulls, led by Ben Gordon, Kirk Hinrich and Luol Deng who combined for over 55 points per game last season; The Miami Heat and Cleveland Cavaliers will be contenders with superstars Dwayne Wade and Lebron James, respectively; and the Knicks, Wizards and Raptors will also be strong competition.

With arguably the second greatest trio in team history (Bird, McHale, Parrish being the greatest), the Celtics seem set to make a strong run for the post-season and try to reclaim a fan base that has devoted most of its energy to the Red Sox and Patriots over the past decade.

Wednesday 11/14



Noon to 1:30 p.m.

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Fri 11/02	Intramurals Parenzo Gym 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Kids Night Out Program Parenzo Gym 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Gaming Program Ely 232 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Sat 11/03	Gaming on the Big Screen Ely Main Lounge 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Table Tennis Tournament Ely Main Lounge 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	MTG Fall Production Dever Auditorium 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Sun 11/04	Intramurals Parenzo Gym 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.	Patriots @ Indianapolis Ely Main Lounge 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Roman Catholic Mass Interfaith Center 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon 11/05	Finding the Perfect Inernship Dever Auditorium 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.	Ballroom Dancing Woodward Court 2 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Intramurals Campus Green 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tues 11/06	Student Success Meeting Ely 130 1:30 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.	Rock Wall Open to WSC Woodward Center 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Christian Student Meeting Interfaith Center 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Wed 11/07	Intramurals Campus Green 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Class of 2009 Meting SGA Conference Room 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Roommate Game Dever Auditorium 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Thurs 11/08	Class of 2010 Meeting SGA Conference Room 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Rock Wall Open to WSC Woodward Center 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	"Say What" Karaoke Finals Dever Auditorium 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII November 9, 2007 Issue IX

Top 10 things overheard during Dick Cheney's hunting trip

1. "Has everyone updated their will?"

2. "The crisp air is giving me goosebumps - no, wait, it's another heart attack."

3. "This can't end well."

4. "My pacemaker also makes bird calls."

5. "I want that quail taken alive! Let's find out what the son of a bitch knows!

6. "Bush was supposed to come, but his father got him out of it."

7. "Condi, grab a shotgun and get yourself a man!"

8 . There is no # 8 -- writers making picket signs for strike instead.

9. "You shoot one old guy in the face, avoid talking to authorities, delay taking a blood-alcohol test and you're labeled a bad guy."

10. "Duck!"

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10



Photo courtesy of www.marketplace.publicradio.org/...itextbook_rebels/

American Diabetes Month

ASHLEY MCGILLOWAY
VOICE REPORTER

November marks American Diabetes month. According to Diabetes.org, about 21 million children and adults in the United States are living with diabetes, and about 54 million others are at-risk.

Diabetes is a disease where a person's body does not supply enough insulin for them to break down the starch and sugars they consume into energy. The American Diabetes Association notes that they are still unsure of the cause of the disease; it may be linked to genetics and obesity.

In the United States, 7 percent of our population has diabetes, and just about one-third of these people are living life unaware that they have the disease. To conclude whether or not a patient has pre-diabetes or diabetes, a Fasting Plasma Glucose Test (FPG) or an Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT) is performed. The American Diabetes Association says that they recommend the FPG because it is easier, faster and less expensive to perform.

According to the American Diabetes Association, there are four major types of Diabetes: Type 1, Type 2, Gestational and Pre-Diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is when the body completely fails to produce insulin. Type 2 diabetes is when the body is resistant to insulin because of insulin deficiency. This is the type that people are usually diagnosed with. Gestational Diabetes effects pregnant women who have never been diagnosed with diabetes, but have high blood sugar levels during pregnancy. This usually effects about 4 percent of pregnant women each year in the United States. About 54 million Americans have pre-diabetes. This is when a persons blood sugars levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to actually be diagnosed with diabetes.

A major reason why diabetes is so frequently undiagnosed is because it does not give off very dangerous symptoms. It is good to catch diabetes early so that it does not create complications. The American Diabetes Association has a diabetes risk test online. Some symptoms include excessive thirst or hunger, increased fatigue, frequent urination, blurry vision, unusual weight-loss and irritability. The association encourages anyone who has any of these symptoms to take the online test.

The American Diabetes Association will focus each week of November on a different group of people who are affected by diabetes. Week 1 is dedicated to the caregivers. Those who have just had a family member diagnosed with diabetes are encouraged to go to the ADA website to learn more about the disease. Week 2 is focused on diabetes in the workplace, and ways that fellow coworkers can help. Week 3 is focused on diabetes around the world; Americans can support this by purchasing "Unite for Diabetes pins" on the website. Week 4 will focus on the at-risk population and promote ways to help the minorities of our population who suffer from diabetes. Lastly, week 5 will focus on Youth and Type 1 diabetes because the American youth with Type 1 diabetes have the most urgent need for care.

MASSPIRG travels to Boston to support Affordable Textbook Bill

REBECCA EVERETT
VOICE REPORTER

Westfield State students and faculty traveled to Boston on Oct. 2, to support House Bill 1200, commonly known as the Affordable Textbook Bill.

Sandi Gollob, Shielding Cournoyer, Chris Nisco, Mark Cabral and Matt Bonventre attended the Higher Education Committee hearing as representatives of Westfield State's chapter of the Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group, (MASSPIRG).

Gollob, who coordinated the MASSPIRG trip, said that it was important to have students at the hearing. "There was about 45 to 50 students standing in the room with their college t-shirts. It had a very big impact," Gollob said.

The five students also met with Westfield's Representative Don Humason, who is a member of the Higher Education Committee. "Westfield State students are really important to him," Gollob said. "He is an alumnae."

The Affordable Textbook Bill addresses two main points in trying to lower the cost of books for students. If enacted, the bill will require publishers to provide teachers with the wholesale price of the book and how long the product will be on the market.

According to MASSPIRG's 2006 survey of 287 Massachusetts professors, "Less than half said that the [publisher's] site typically lists the price of the book." If teachers had better information about the price of the book, and the likelihood of new editions being released soon, they could make more informed decisions to help keep books affordable for students, MASSPIRG said.

The bill also demands that a publisher must offer books 'unbundled,' or without additional CD-ROMs, workbooks and other products. MASSPIRG's report on the 2006 survey said, "Publishers artificially inflate the price of textbooks by adding bells and whistles to the current texts."

The study found that half of textbooks now come bundled and reported that "over 65 percent of faculty surveyed for the report say they 'rarely' or 'never' use the bundled materials in their courses."

Professor Ken Haar also testified at the Affordable Textbook Bill hearing. "The committee reported on the bill favorably," Haar said. He reiterated Gollob's feelings that "packing the room with students" had an impressive influence on the hearing.

Gollob said of Haar, "It was good to have Professor Haar there to testify because textbook publishers also testified and tried to blame everything on teachers. He told the committee that he has ordered books unbundled, and he got them bundled anyway."

Haar testified on behalf of the Massachusetts State College Association, which supports the bill. The MSCA, according to the WSC faculty resource guide, is the "legally recognized representative of state collage faculty and librarians in collective bargaining."

Haar was also one of two representatives sent from the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts. PHENOM describes itself as an organization of students, faculty, staff and alumnae that advocates for "affordable, accessible, democratic and well-funded public higher education."

"MASSPIRG has been trying to get textbook prices lower for years," Gollob said of the group's support of the bill. "It's a market based problem, so we need a market based solution."

Ruckus may not be all that it's cracked up to be...Read a columnists view on Page 6



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Westfield State College offers Ruckus digital media entertainment service

Westfield State College now offers students free, legal access to music downloads through a partnership with the Ruckus Network, Inc. The service, based in Herndon, Va., was launched today on campus.

Christopher Hirtle, executive director of Information Technology at Westfield State, said students who register with the service can now download and share files with other students at the college or at other institutions. Ruckus is offered at more than 173 colleges and universities nationwide.

The service, created specifically for college students, offers access from both on and off campus to more than three million songs from major and independent label artists, as well as music videos and films. Ruckus eliminates copyright infringement through licensing agreements with all of the major international record labels, as well as thousands of independent labels and artists.

Students can register with Ruckus using their college e-mail addresses. Faculty and staff can also access the service, but pay a monthly fee.

"We are pleased that our partnership with Ruckus offers many advantages to our students," Hirtle said. "Now students can download legal, licensed and free digital content, that is free of viruses or spy ware. With the Ruckus service, we are giving students a legal downloading alternative that also includes social networking features found at popular sites. It's something we think will be well-received on campus."

Westfield State was selected to participate based on student interest, the college's high quality networking infrastructure and commitment to supporting legal digital media services on campus. The college and Ruckus will collaborate to reduce campus network infrastructure costs and enhance user experience by improving network performance and distributing additional video content on campus, Hirtle said.

"We are very excited to make our music service available to students at Westfield State College, to help them discover and share new music," said Chris Utah, director of Campus Marketing at Ruckus. "Westfield State College students have been asking for Ruckus for months and we are happy to now provide a full-featured digital entertainment service — and a safe and legal alternative to file-sharing — at no cost to students or to the school."

Pulitzer Prize winner,Tracy Kidder, to speak at Westfield State

Tracy Kidder, author of this year's Campus Book, "Mountains Beyond Mountains," will speak in Dever Auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. .

The book tells the story of Dr. Paul Farmer, an infectious disease specialist who discovered his calling to provide medical assistance in developing countries while working in Haiti as a student. Partners in Health, the organization he now heads, works in Haiti, Peru, Africa and Russia.

Kidder was in Haiti in 1994 writing about efforts to reinstate Haiti's democratically elected government when he met Farmer for the first time. He traveled with Farmer on his medical missions and also spent time with him in Boston, where he teaches at Harvard Medical School, and works at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

A full-immersion journalist, Kidder describes his adventures with the unusually energetic and dedicated Farmer as he visits patients in their remote villages and deals with advanced stages of infectious disease.



Photo courtesy of www.wsc.ma.edu

Besides winning the Pulitzer Prize for his book, "The Soul of a New Machine," Kidder has won the National Book Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Award and other literary prizes. His other books include "House," "Among Schoolchildren," "Old Friends" and "Home Town."

Two Westfield State College graduates are featured in Kidder's books. Tommy O'Connor, a criminal justice major, is 'the cop' in "Home Town," an insightful book about Northampton.

Christine Zajac, an education major, is the subject of "Among Schoolchildren," about a teacher's daily life with the fifth grade in a racially mixed school in a poor section of Holyoke.

"'Mountains Beyond Mountains' was chosen as the Campus Book because it emphasizes many of the virtues that we at Westfield State hold, including service to others, our interest in the global community and social justice," said Catherine Doyle, library director and principal organizer of Kidder's visit. "As our students begin to think about their own lives, Paul Farmer's example gives them much to ponder, including the role of service in their own lives."

After the lecture Mr. Kidder will be signing "Mountains Beyond Mountains," "Home Town" and "Among Schoolchildren."

This event is sponsored by the Guest Lecture Series, and is free and open to the public.

Sober students see effects of drinking firsthand

Jenn Krok
Managing Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, Public Safety officials oversaw demonstrations outside of the Ely Library that showed students the effects of drinking.

Police Officer Victor Rufo and Security Officer Art O'Leary ran the Beer Goggles demonstration that allowed students to witness firsthand the effects that drinking could potentially have on their bodies. By putting on beer goggles that blurred their vision, students were able to see how drinking effects their vision, balance and impairment.

Rufo and O'Leary established three basic tests to give to the students. First, they had students walk along a straight line of tape stuck to the floor with the beer goggles on to see if they could stay on the line and keep their balance. Not surprisingly, every student ended being way off. Next, they had students try to touch the tip of a pen and throw a piece of paper in a wastebasket while wearing the beer goggles. Few students could place the tip of their finger on the pen cap or get the paper in the basket.

Drinking is common among students at college campuses across the country and along with that comes the issues of drinking and driving. According to Rufo there are usually about two operating under the influence stops at Westfield each week that are mostly by the midnight shifts. "That's not that bad if you consider how many people are drinking and driving."

Just because students aren't caught doesn't mean that it is condoned. "The most OUIs we've ever had was about four in a two day period," Rufo said. Drinking and driving can lead to license suspension for a minimum of 90 days, liability if there is an accident, and the worst-case scenario is death.

There have never been any drinking and driving related fatalities at Westfield State. "We've been very lucky, but that doesn't mean it can't happen," Rufo said. "From my experience with drinking and driving...just don't do it."

Editor's Desk



I don't know what's up with me, but for some reason, I must give off this sixth sense energy that screams, "GHOSTS! FOLLOW ME!" That's the only explanation I have for the strange happenings in The Voice office.

What else could explain the TV moving itself, missing candy from the candy jar, chairs mysteriously moving themselves when I'm not there and most importantly, my missing carpet?

I love this carpet. It had pretty moons & stars on it. And I come in one day and it's gone. Poof. Vanished into thin air. I know no one would actually come take my amazing carpet or use my TV and have a 'chill session' on the couch (I don't even sit on that couch anymore...with its history and all). That's why my paranormal intuition is telling me that the office is haunted.

I could be the next Allison Dubois or the amazing new lead girl on "Supernatural."

Granted, Halloween is over. So the ghost tricks are getting a tad old. Mi casa su casa, man. We're totally chill. But, I just want my carpet back. It's probably the only cool thing decorating this office.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Free music downloads from Ruckus



Channels 70 and 71 not working :(

A fabulous evening for a fabulous you!

Nicole LeBlanc
Special to the Voice

Fabulous!, Nov. 17 at the CityStage in Springfield, Mass., is a Fashion Runway and Trunk Show Extravaganza featuring hot designers and boutiques from Boston, New York, and the local area in a one of a kind event held by ArtisN Productions and benefitting Rays of Hope.

Former business professor and Co-Director of ArtisN Productions, Tom Locke, has been working with current students as well as alumni to produce the unique fashion extravaganza with an original and edgy twist on traditional events. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Rays of Hope & the fight against breast cancer.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Fabulous! guests are invited to enter a world of fantastic events, including a fashion runway featuring designs from near and far. Fabulous models and fashions will be complimented by Fabulous Hair, Fabulous Makeup, Fabulously hip music, and even a few Fabulously Special Guest Models!

Locke says, "Fabulous! is for every man and woman, putting fashion at your fingertips. It's a night of absolute decadence combined with funk and fun, and we can all be proud that this evening of indulgence is contributing to a great cause."

Designer booths will adorn the various areas of CityStage all evening long, allowing Fabulous! guests a chance to purchase this season's hottest and hippest designs.

Guests will also spend the evening dining on exquisite cuisines and spirits, including sophisticated cocktails from our cash bar, extraordinary food stations and delectable desserts, completing a truly Fabulous! event.

The slate of professionally produced shows throughout the evening includes and incorporates fashion, dance, hair, music and comedy! Plus, thousands of dollars in luxurious products and services will be given away.

Fabulous fun. Fabulous indulgence, and Fabulous free giveaways will contribute to a good cause: Rays of Hope and the fight against breast cancer! Michelle Graci, coordinator of Fund Raising Events at Baystate Health Foundation and coordinator of the Rays of Hope Walk says, "Rays of Hope is incredibly excited to be involved with such a wonderful event. We can't wait for what we know will be a unique, fun and exciting evening that will benefit our mission!"

Tickets range from $35 to $150 and include access to all shows and private trunk sale, as well as food and cash bar which includes one free glass of wine or champagne per person. VIP ticket holders enjoy additional perks! For more details visit www.artisNproductions.com and for tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com or call the CityStage box office at 413.788.7033



To the Campus Community:

The Ely Renovation Project that includes demolishing and constructing a new accessible main lobby to the Ely Library/Campus Center Building and making other improvements to the building is about to begin. To date, the college has installed temporary entrances, relocated fiber optic lines and steam lines to the building, and has installed a new HVAC system in anticipation of the major construction effort. I can report to you that the major construction project will soon be underway. On Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007, the main entrance to the building will be closed to pedestrian traffic. Members of the college community using the building will have to use one of the two temporary entrances that have been constructed, or the north and south stairwells to access portions of the building. At this time, the entrance to the bookstore and to the Third World Room will not be affected. To enter the front portion of the building, individuals will need to use the ramp to gain access to the Ely Library, Maris Art Gallery, Student Senate, Communications Dept., and third floor classrooms and television studio. To gain access to the Campus Center, Ely Theater, food venues, Wellness Center/Pool, conference rooms and offices, individuals will have to use the temporary stairway or handicapped ramp on the campus center side of the building. Temporary signage will be installed this week to direct individuals not familiar with the campus.

Coincidentally, the state has hired D.A. Sullivan as the construction firm for the project. They have corporate offices in Western Massachusetts and served as the original construction firm when the building was constructed in the early 1970s. Within several weeks, construction trailers and workmen will be onsite to begin demolition preparatory work. This project is being supervised by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management. I and members of the Facilities staff will represent the college on any matters related to the project. Questions can be forwarded to my office. Now that the project is underway, periodic meetings will be held with department heads and personnel in the building to update them on project progress. The tentative completion date for the project is Sept. 1, 2009.

Members of the college community are invited to come to an informational meeting on the Ely Project. The meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m. in the Dr. Peter D. Mazza Student Government Room located in the basement of the Ely Building under the Library.

Curt Robie

Assistant V.P. Administration



How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

CAREER BUSTERS
or
How to Sabotage your career regardless of grades, degree or experience!

MySpace, Facebook, cell phone bills, JBoard – familiar terms? Wondering what these have to do with your career? Take notice, these things matter more than you think.

"The latest statistics from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) show that almost 80 percent of the companies surveyed are conducting background checks on potential employees," (NEHRA, Fall 2007). Employers are now checking social networks and credit bureaus along with the traditional on and off campus background checks. Employers are reviewing these for internships as well as full and part-time employment.

A recent article on CareerBuilder.com, "Warning: Social Networking Can be Hazardous to Your Job Search" warns: "That cute, affable guy who brags of his drunken exploits on Facebook.com may be meeting a lot of other partiers online, but he's probably not getting added to the 'friends' lists of many corporate recruiters. A recent study by the executive search firm ExecuNet found that 77 percent of recruiters run searches of candidates on the Web to screen applicants; 35 percent of these same recruiters say they've eliminated a candidate based on the information they uncovered," (Kate Lorenz, CareerBuilder.com Editor, 24/09/2007).

"You'd be surprised at what I've seen when researching candidates," says Gail, a recruiter at a Fortune 500 company who recently began looking up potential hires on the Web.

"We were having a tough time deciding between two candidates until I found the profile of one of them on MySpace. It boasted a photo of her lounging on a hammock in a bikini, listed her interests as 'having a good time' and her sex as 'yes, please.' Not quite what we were looking for."

"Another time I went to a candidate's site and found racial slurs and jokes," Gail continues. "And there was yet another instance where a candidate told me he was currently working for a company, yet he left a comment on a friend's profile about how it 'sucked' to be laid off, and how much fun it was to be unemployed!"

Students are encouraged to think carefully before posting information that might damage their employment prospects.

Think twice before engaging in reckless behavior on and off campus. Don't let a night of Red Sox celebration tarnish an otherwise clean slate. Be careful with consumer credit. Delinquent cell phone, car and student loans can come back to haunt you. When posting online, use caution and monitor what your friends' post that might include you!

Kate Lorenz concludes with the following advice:

"Not all employers search candidates and employees online, but the trend is growing. Don't let online social networking deep-six your career opportunities."

Protect your image by following these simple tips:

1. Be careful. Nothing is private. Don't post anything on your site or your "friends" sites you wouldn't want a prospective employer to see. Derogatory comments, revealing or risqué photos, foul language and lewd jokes all will be viewed as a reflection of your character.

2. Be discreet. If your network offers the option, consider setting your profile to "private," so that it is viewable only by friends of your choosing. And since you can't control what other people say on your site, you may want to use the "block comments" feature. Remember, everything on the Internet is archived and there is no eraser!

3. Be prepared. Check your profile regularly to see what comments have been posted. Use a search engine to look for online records of yourself to see what is out there about you. If you find information you feel could be detrimental to your candidacy or career, see about getting it removed -- and make sure you have an answer ready to counter or explain "digital dirt."

If you have any questions about these matters, feel free to contact your Career Center at careers@wsc.ma.edu or (413) 572-5206.

Maureen McCartney
Director
WSC Career Center

Letter to the Editor

A response to "How to lose a girl in 10 days":

I'm a senior here at Westfield State College, and after I read this article, I just had to shake my head in disbelief at how immature and self-centered women can be IF this is the collective opinions of women here at Westfield State. Before I take the vast majority of these rules, rip them down and rebuild them up, I have one small piece of advice to give to the women at WSC, and that advice is : Whatever men can do, women are equally capable of (and with their cunning), sometimes worse. There's no negative male traits that a women is incapable of managing on her own.

Before I sincerely lay into this "anonymous" author, I will comment on a few rules I do agree with. Rule 8 deals with not trying to hook up with a woman when you're already committed. I have no problems or issues with this rule due to the fact that if you are in a relationship with any person (yes...this applies to women...just not as publicized), and you feel the need to "stray" at any point in that relationship, it only signifies one thing. There's something wrong about the person you're with that you aren't satisified with, or a quality that person has that keeps you from picturing yourself with that person long term. In that situation, do yourself and that person a favor, and break it off before finding another person to hook up with/take a chance with. Next commendable rule is Rule 5, where it's not okay to take advantage of a girl who is too drunk. I wholeheartedly agree with you to an extent. Although, when in a party or club atmosphere, when both people are drunk beyond comprehension, when a guy tries to take the initiative and hook up with a girl that is as drunk as he is, personal responsibility easily comes into play between both people. I know females across campus will take that line as a hard pill to swallow, but the fact of the matter is, it's true. A woman is empowered to be whatever she wants to be in life. If she wants to go home with a guy on a Friday night, it is her CHOICE. If a woman wants to marry a guy she's been in a long term relationship with, it is her CHOICE. If she and a guy get careless on a Saturday night, have sex and all of a sudden a third is expected when NEITHER planned on it, that was THEIR choice. BOTH parties play a role and responsibility as to whether women and men take advantage of each OTHER when intoxicated, to an extent. IN a situation like that (or on any other night where there is a lot of drinking), if a girl is at a party and "screams at people trying to take her drink," her FRIENDS should shoulder a little responsibility and get her CUT of the situation and bring her back to her room so that that situation gets avoided. The same goes for men (although it's less likely to happen, doesn't mean it's any less true). My final thought on Rule 5 is this - you make your bed, YOU lie in it. Last but not least, I'll support the notion that it's not okay to claim you slept with a girl and really didn't. This ISN'T high school anymore. We, as students, claim to be adults in the eyes of our parents now that we've reached this level in life. It's time, "children," to start ACTING like it. In a situation like that, you get a good five minute soundbite with your friends, and women involved will be deeply hurt. So remember this guys, and learn it WELL; don't EVER tell tales about a woman. She'll HEAR you no matter HOW far away she is.

And now comes the part where I truly get nasty.

Rule #10: (Don't in any way comment on your girlfriend's body)

This is a blatant indication of total insecurity on a woman's part. Any woman with an ounce of self-confidence (and flexible sense of humor) will take little to no offense at the notion of commenting on another woman. First and foremost, if you were decent enough, charming enough and good looking enough to hook the guy you are with, then there is obviously more than one thing our guy really likes about you. Try NOT focusing on every negative in a relationship and BUILD on the POSITIVES. The two of you are great together, easy to hang out with, can be open with each other, great in bed together (if you feel that should be high on the list). Enjoy those things. Value those things. Don't let little, trivial things like your guy mentioninng another woman's body parts strip the WHOLE of your confidence and self-worth away so much that you use that VERY minor negative to NEGATE the numerous postivies about your man.

Rule #9: (NO, we don't want a threesome...)

Whoever wrote this article can't POSSIBLY be speaking for the whole campus of women on this issue. NO guys...granted it's not okay, and borderline IGNORANT, to ask a woman if she wants a threesome RIGHT off the bat. She doesn't know you that well yet. But in all relationships, the longer they last, the stronger the trust between two people, it's more than okay for a guy to simply ask this question. Is the girl going to say yes? Probably not, but after going together for a decent amount of time, that girl will be comfortable answering yes or no. It's a RARE thing when a girl will say yes, and if she does, be willing to follow her terms on it. Threesomes are a once in a lifetime opportunity, so don't ever screw up that opportunity by trying to go with the second girl behind your woman's back etc. ON the other hand, if she says no (which is likely to happen), understand her wishes, accept them and go on, because you wouldn't be with her if there weren't things you really liked about her in the first place.

Rule #7: (Don't invite us over to talk at 3 a.m.)

I hate it when I have to repeat myself! Before I start, I have to point out that before you conceived this rule, you, as a woman, have never thought of the idea of wanting a "booty call" yourself. Although most women won't talk about it, it crosses their minds in the wee hours of the morning; women just aren't as quick to admit it. But getting back to the subject. I hate having to repeat myself when it's the personal choice of that girl (whether intoxicated or not) to go over at 3 a.m. and "talk," knowing full-well what she is getting herself into. The word "no" is in her vocabulary, and it is her right to use it when the need arises. As I said before, "You make your bed, you LIE in it."

Rule #6: (Don't try and blame a fight on us)

Here's arguably the most comical quote of this whole article - "And girls are always right." Most people with their head screwed on straight will believe this when the weather forecasts for flurries in HELL. Women largely think and act with their emotions and heart, and a man will use his head, think rationally, and try to systematically argue his way out of a situation. Both modes of thinking can constitute disaster. Neither men nor women are right all of the time. There is a flaw in any argument, and neither men nor women will ever truly be able to claim they are right ALL of the time. Nobody is perfect, and that means men and women as a whole. The best thing you can do in a heated fight is simply look for some sort of common ground to compromise, to diffuse the situation, and slowly make up so that whatever wrongs you caused your girl, or vice versa, you can WORK THROUGH it and hopefully become a little stronger.

Rule #4: (Do not refer to us with your friends at home as "some girl from school")

First of all, as a woman, and giving the level of the relationship, who do you think you are to be offended by a statement like that when he brings you home to meet his friends (who most likely have been friends since early grade school)? If your relationship is in its pure infancy, there's no other way to honestly phrase it in any other way than "a girl I'm seeing at school." On the flip side, if you were to bring your man (who you'd been dating a few weeks) home to visit your lifelong friends, to call him your boyfriend is extremely immature on your part considering you really don't know your partner after a few weeks. You need a decent amount of time to get to know your partner, and like him for his pros AND cons. At that point, and only at that point (after a solid amount of time), would it be fair to give your man the "boyfriend" tag.

Rule #3: (Don't play the "commitment phobe" card)

When you make this statement, it is obvious that you know absolutely NOTHING about men OR women. The reason being is that like men, women are completely different in their wants and desires in the opposite sex. There are women out there who like nothing more than a physical relationship (although these are a minority), and the woman who likes to build a strong relationship and have it develop into something great. This is like a balancing act in the sense that most guys DO love the physical when it comes to women, and the minority (yes, I said minority, because if you are reading this and don't agree, CONGRATULATIONS! You're the decent guy out there who's blind to the women out there, seeing they claim this guy is so hard to find). Men and women seem to be opposites in their wants, but ladies, it's really simple to remedy this. You CAN'T change/train a man to be more "feminine/your perfect interpretation of a guy." Like a guy for who he is. Period! Because on the flip side, you wouldn't want your man trying to do the same to you. But getting back to the subject, any woman (as keen as most woman are) will easily see tell-tale signs of a man's intentions regardless of whether he straight up tells you or not. If you feel he only wants to be physical/sexual, and you want more, he's gotta prove he's capable of more, or there's the door; don't let it hit you in the ass on the way out. If these issues are lingering for you beneath the surface ladies, LET THE MAN KNOW, work it out (an important question it is, and the two of you can only work through that question together if you are to grow as a couple), and then you'll have our ultimate answer.

Rule #2: (Do not assume that you can sleep with a girl)

Good GOD! You OVERANALYZE the notion of a guy hooking up with a girl on this one. First of all, it's simple. A guy flirts, a girl flirts back. It's a pretty good assumption that they'll be hooking up before the night is over. The funniest part of this lame argument is the fact that if a woman is flirting, it's ONLY because of the alcohol. Where is your personal responsibility?!?! If you have the stones to flirt (and if you like him or her), you'll more than likely have the stones to pursue further. If you have no physical attraction or curiosity about that person, more often than not, you wouldn't give that person the time of day, even in an active social setting. It's that simple, ladies! If you don't like the advances a guy makes towards you, keep your distance or get your friends involved. More often than not, after altering your friends, you and your posse will stage a coup against that one guy, and he will easily back off to avoid being embarassed (to other party-goers and his friends). And women, please adhere to the same advice. Men deserve no less when they're being hounded by a woman drunk off her ass. The guy doesn't want any part of it either because she's so drunk; it's embarassing to watch. Or, if the attraction isn't there, he doesn't want to bother. Newsflash, ladies, it happens to guys as well and we don't put it as our top story on the six o'clock news. So on this rule ladies, think a little smarter on this ill-conceived rule, and you'll come out much better and wiser on how to handle situations like this in the future.

Todd Rapisarda

Self-inflicted wounds

ALBERTO MORA
JOHN SHATTUCK

THE WASHINGTON POST

The question of whether waterboarding constitutes torture is a no-brainer. Our nation and many others have recognized for decades that it does. One doesn't have to have been "read into" the details of a classified program, as President Bush has suggested, to reach a judgment about this interrogation technique. Common sense is the only tool needed to understand that inducing the sensation of drowning — i.e., of dying — is torture.

Remarkably, in his recent confirmation hearing to be attorney general, Judge Michael Mukasey declined to say whether waterboarding is torture. There are two explanations for this. Mukasey himself stated that he was without enough information to make the call. But some believe his unwillingness to do so may also be based on a concern that it could increase the potential liability for those who have engaged in this practice or authorized it.

Both explanations demonstrate the corrosive effects of the decision to adopt cruelty and — as with waterboarding — even torture as weapons of war. The first shows the tendency, pioneered by the Justice Department that Mukasey hopes to lead, to redefine torture to make "legal" what was, and is, illegal. The second shows how concern about accountability for the abuse of detainees is now acting as a stimulus for ratification of cruel interrogation policies and practices. In this confluence, we risk permanent damage to our legal system and to the principle of accountability.

But there are also greater risks. There is no more fundamental right, whether under U.S. law or under human rights principles, than a person's right to be free not only from torture but also from cruel treatment, the lower level of abuse under law. If we were to legitimize cruelty — as those who espouse waterboarding would wish us to do — we would do violence to the concept of inalienable and inviolable personal rights. The protection afforded by law to core human dignity would be shattered, with incalculable damage to our nation's deepest values, founding principles and constitutional order.

And we risk much more yet.

Cruelty diminishes the international standing of the United States and impedes our ability to achieve crucial foreign policy objectives. Opinion polling in Europe and South Asia last year, including surveys by World Opinion.org and Public Diplomacy.org, found that majorities believe the United States engages in torture and disregards international treaties on the treatment of detainees. Overwhelming majorities in Germany and Britain, our closest European allies, condemn America as doing a "bad job" on human rights.

The promotion of democracy and human rights is a key element of U.S. foreign policy and fosters a rules-based international system anchored in the protection of human dignity. But our ability to achieve this goal -- indeed, even our adherence to this strategic objective — is severely compromised when our own conduct is widely perceived to violate human rights.

As bad as the damage to our foreign policy has been, the damage to our national security may be even worse. Because the application of cruelty is a crime under the laws of many of our allies, our ability to build and maintain the broad alliance needed to efficiently fight the war on terrorism has been crippled. After Abu Ghraib, when the dimensions of our policy of cruelty became more visible, international assistance across the range of military, intelligence and law enforcement arenas dropped as foreign officials grew concerned that their cooperation might constitute aiding and abetting criminal activity.

The damage is significant even at the tactical level. Some military officials today believe that the proximate causes of Abu Ghraib were the legal opinions issued by the Justice Department that sanctioned abusive interrogations. There are other serving military officials who maintain that the leading causes of U.S. combat deaths in Iraq are, respectively, Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, as gauged by their effectiveness in stimulating the recruitment and fielding of jihadists on the battlefield.

Judge Mukasey is able and accomplished. But if he is confirmed as the next attorney general, his legacy will depend on his ability to do what he has been unable or unwilling to do in his confirmation process: recognize torture and cruelty for what they are and protect our nation by stripping certain interrogation methods of their disgraceful camouflage of false "legality."

Alberto Mora was general counsel to the Navy from 2001 to 2006. John Shattuck was assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor from 1993 to 1998 and was ambassador to the Czech Republic from 1998 to 2000.

Rock-star crushes



NICOLE SYLVESTER

VOICE COLUMNIST

I have these weird crushes that I like to refer to as "rock-star crushes." I'm always using the term and nobody ever gets it. I guess that's because I made it up. But I'd like to share it with you. A "rock-star crush" is the kind of crush you might have on a celebrity, but applied in your own personal life. The rock star is that friend or that acquaintance that just makes you weak in the knees. And you adore absolutely everything about them, but there's a catch. The reason these crushes are different than any other kind of crush is because you would never do anything about it. That's what makes them a rock star, they're beyond your reach, no matter whether its by your own doing or by situational hurdles.

Of course, if you make the conscious decision to accept someone as a rock star crush there's usually a good reason.

Hypothetically, this is a decision you've made and accepted and you completely enjoy a close friendship with the object of your rock star crush and repeatedly explain to people that you would never make a move and have compiled a convincing list of reasons why.

What should you do when your rock star takes your hand and leads you away from the party?

Well, you go along. Assuming that this is an opportunity for conversation. Trying not to guess what comes next but most likely reciting the list of reasons why nothing will happen.

What do you do when your rock star stands too close, tilts up your face and kisses you? He actually kisses you! Something you told yourself over and over that could never happen.

Well you kiss him back, duh.

And what do you do when your rock star is on top of you saying what he wants to do to you, but suddenly makes a hasty exit?

Continued on Page 6

This really is a life or death situation



CAITLIN PENNDORF

OPINION & EDITORIAL EDITOR

This year, 4.8 million people died from one decision. How crazy is that? If you had the decision to do something that would probably kill you or to keep your life going for as long as you could, I'm sure you'd pick the second option.

This statistic is referring to smoking deaths according to The Truth website (you know, the "Whudafxup" commercials featuring that guy with the crazy hair, making bold statements about the effects of smoking). Smoking is something that leads to many deaths, whether it's from illness, fires or even second hand smoke. Another statistic found from The Truth website is that "cigarette smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in the U.S." That's right, preventable. Now that's really insane.

The Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program also says that "Tobacco kills more people each year than car accidents, AIDS, homicides, suicides and poisonings combined."

Cigarette companies feed into our brains, making smoking seem glamorous and sexy. Please let me know what's so hot about black lungs and aging prematurely? That's what I thought. Plus, it kills you. Every time you light up, you're killing yourselves and the others around you who are stuck breathing in the tainted air that surrounds them.



Photo courtesy of www.athletic-scholarships.net/smoking1.gif

I've seen someone struggle with dying from a smoking related illness. You cannot imagine the pain they go through every day. Walking across the house becomes a difficult task. I don't think that's the type of life anyone imagines themselves living. Watching someone you love go through that type of pain does more than any public service announcement ever could.

It's not too late to change though. Quitting, while it's not easy, is possible. There are many products out there to help you quit such as nicotine gum and nicotine patches. The American Cancer Society's website also talks about hypnosis or acupuncture to help people stop quitting, along with tobacco lozenges, nicotine lollipops and lip balms. The American Cancer Society says that after just two to three weeks after quitting smoking, "your circulation improves and your lung function increases."

Keeping yourself healthy is important. No one wants to deal with a bad cold or smoker's cough. To go one further, everyone wants to live. So before you go to light up, ask yourself this: do you want to be just another smoking death statistic?

Ruckus: Not such a great idea



Eryn Carter

Layout Editor

By now, I'm sure all of you have heard of Ruckus. In fact, there's even an article on the second page of this issue. From what I've heard through the grapevine not long ago, it was deemed "illegal" for students to use because it's a music-downloading program. But I could be wrong.

Well guess what. Now WSC has a created a partnership of sorts with the music downloading program so students can legally download and listen to millions of songs. All you have to do is sign up with your school email. Think of it as the musical version of Facebook. It even has a friend's area, except it's called the Neighborhood here.

Don't get too excited. I already discovered the reason they chose Ruckus. First, any music you download, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BURN TO A CD. Apparently their music has special protection. I mean, I guess it makes sense, it's free, but come on. If you're letting us download, you might as well allow us to listen elsewhere, not just on our computers.

Second, you can't sync any of the music to ANY music player unless you are willing to pay a monthly fee. Now for a broke college student, that can get expensive. Especially at $19.95 a month. Seriously, we can buy music off iTunes for cheaper than that!

And the kicker, your free and legally downloaded music will not work on your iPod. So hey, I guess if you have any of those others you're in some sort of luck but if your part of the other 80 percent that owns an iPod, you're screwed. What are you going to do with all that free music now that you can only listen to it on your computer?

But hey, why wouldn't the school choose this program? I'm sure they're all sitting and thinking they've tricked us all into thinking, 'Hey, we're allowed to download music!' and I'm sure they're hoping that we'll all be happy that we're allowed to through this program. But honestly, what's the point if I can't use it on my iPod?!

Really, I think it's a great program if you just want to have music on your computer to listen to since you may not have an MP3 player, but since the majority of us have iTunes or iPods, it makes absolutely no sense.

Good try guys, but this one isn't going to fly with most students. But hey, at least you were thinking about us for once.

I think I'll just stick to MyTunes....

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Kristi Mientka

Voice Columnist

A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of seeing Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa speak in Boston. Tutu was speaking at a conference hosted by the Friends of Sabeel, a Palestinian Christian group, on the political unrest in Israel.

Controversy surrounding the event was building. Lots of people had been accusing Tutu of being anti-Semitic because since the 1980s, Tutu has said the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians is akin to South African apartheid. The University of St. Thomas in Minnesota even canceled a speech he had been scheduled to give, fearing his presence would upset the local Jewish population. (The university has since reversed its decision). Tutu happens to be one of the most tolerant spiritual leaders of our time. For years, he has fought racism and homophobia. To say that he is anti-Semitic—when actually, he opposes the policies of the Israeli government—is a serious mistake. Going into the Old South Church that day, I didn't know what to expect. I noticed a few protesters standing outside. I was afraid it might be scary by the time we had to leave the building. I didn't pay too much attention to the first few speakers, due in part to some intense tiredness, and in part to a temporary hearing impairment. I was hoping I'd be able to stay alert for Tutu's speech.

But I needn't have worried. When Tutu stood up, his presence was commanding. Everyone in the room was silent. His speech was electrifying. It rang with themes of tolerance and compassion. Tutu spoke of his belief that Jews and Christians are spiritual kin. And even though we could all hear the loud shouts of protesters outside the church, Tutu refused to acknowledge them. He continued with his speech. At one point, he said, "It cannot happen that evil, injustice and oppression can have the last word. No. Ultimately goodness, justice, freedom—these will prevail." At the end, he received a standing ovation.

Still in awe, people stumbled up to the stage afterward to be near Archbishop Tutu. I was among them. Shaking, and mumbling something incoherent, I reached out and shook Tutu's hand. He looked a bit weary seated in his chair, tired from the effort of standing and speaking for half an hour, and from the wear of his 76 years. But nonetheless, he smiled and said, "God bless you." Tutu's belief in humanity, and in his religion, moved me to the core.

Regardless of my religious or political beliefs, I was deeply inspired by a man who has so much conviction and so much faith. Desmond Tutu's Friends of Sabeel speech can be found at?http://www.fosna.org/docu-

Rock star - Continued from Page 5

You let him go. And sit quietly rubbing your mouth and taking stock of the bite marks on your neck asking yourself, did that really just happen?

Can your rock star remain your rock star? Is this something we make peace with and never mention again because, well, we were both drunk...and...you know. And most importantly, is he still off limits?



Art Show *SHERID ADAMS* November 7 - December 8, 2007
DIGITAL GRAPHICS AND PAINTINGS

Show runs: November 7 - December 8, 2007
Arno Maris Gallery at Westfield State College
Artist Reception: November 7, 2007 from 5PM - 8PM
Gallery Talk Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 2PM - 5PM

Student Government Association Column

Eateries on Campus

Ashley White, Chair of Food Committee

In regards to the October 19 article in The Voice entitled "The Dining Commons," I feel many valid points were made. However, I also feel that some of the information could use some clarification. Many points were discussed in last week's article by Evan Cullerton, a Food Committee member, but I am sure you have more concerns. Therefore, I encourage all students to attend the event "Come talk about Food," which will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday Nov. 13, in the Dining Commons. This event will be a chance for anyone to come in and discuss their ideas and issues pertaining to the DC.

Being the chair of the Food Service Committee, my committee and I attend weekly meetings along with the Sodexho Staff, where issues with the food at the Dining Commons are discussed. It should be known that the members and staff of the DC want to make the students happy and put forth quite an effort to do so. During these meetings we work together to discuss complaints as well as comments that are brought forth through word of mouth and comment cards. I feel that many students may not be familiar with the comment card box or may not know any students on the food committee, therefore, they may have trouble voicing their opinions. If you are one of these people, I encourage you to attend our event. I look forward to seeing you there!

- Ashley White

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to come by the Student Government Association located in the basement of Ely or contact us by e-mailing president.sga@wsc.ma.edu or calling extension 5429



Photo by Krissy Phelan

'American Gangster'

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: B+

The incomparable Ridley Scott brings 1970s Harlem to life in the new crime drama "American Gangster." The film centers on the unlikely true story of chauffeur turned druglord Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington). Lucas begins his gangster career as a driver for Harlem kingpin 'Bumpy' Johnson. Lucas' devotion to Bumpy goes beyond his mentor's death and Lucas continues to run Bumpy's business, eventually taking the mantle of leader of Harlem. His unprecedented success stems from making a direct connection in Southeast Asia and importing heroin to the United States without a middleman. This allows Lucas to sell a better product for less money and he soon corners the market.

On the other side of the law is the tenacious detective Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe). Roberts is one of the only clean cops in New Jersey and is asked to head up a new narcotics initiative. His sleuthing eventually leads him to Lucas in New York and the hunt is on.

The film does not follow the typical "cops and robbers" formula. "Gangster" is not a dangerous game of cat and mouse between a staunch detective and a criminal mastermind. It isn't a game of chess played out by two adversaries on a grand scale. In fact, the paths of the two leads do not cross until the film's climax. While this may be a bit disappointing (especially knowing how well Ridley Scott could craft such a saga), understand that the notion that popular culture has regarding the relationship between cop and criminal has been fabricated through the work of fictional films.

"American Gangster" is not such a film. It has a real story to tell and it tells it methodically and with conviction. The screen time is split just about evenly between its two Academy Award winning leads and both do their part in bringing the story to life. Their brilliant performances along with the costumes, sets and soundtrack help the film achieve authenticity. From the corrupt cops to the news reports from Vietnam, everything in the film helps to transport the audience back to the tumultuous 1970s.

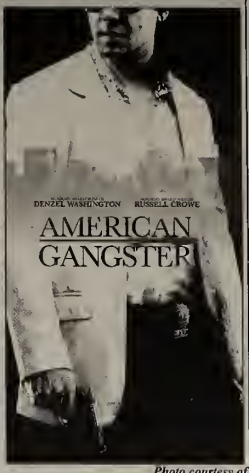


Photo courtesy of www.cinemaplus.files.wordpress.com

The only real drawback here is that "American Gangster" spans a long period of time, figuratively and literally. At more than two and half-hours it is not a short film by any means. The first hour especially might make people a bit fidgety, which is unusual for a Ridley Scott and Brian Grazer production. Once the story picks up you'll become wrapped up in it. However, it could have used a few more action beats to spice up the first half and keep the audience on the edge of their seats instead of wrestling to find a more comfortable position.

While "American Gangster" isn't the instant classic I hoped it would be based on the names on the marquee, it remains a well-crafted crime drama highlighted with superb performances and a fascinating true story. Just make sure to hang in there for the payoff and don't let the first hour bring you down.

BOTTOM LINE: A first-rate crime drama worth a look regardless of its sluggish pace.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

Spears' 'Blackout' shines light

James Dihn
A&E Columnist

Like Britney Spears' personal life and troubled endeavors, you're expecting it to be bad. You're expecting it to be disastrous. But if you ignore the fake hair extensions, forget the crotch shot and let lose of that terrible VMA performance, you'll see that her new album is rather good.

Spears' first studio effort in four years, "Blackout", is a triumphant return to what seems like a long forgotten territory for the popstar. The disk's blatantly sexual, electronic infused and dance ready tracks propel the album higher than any of her previous LP's with little filler.

First single, "Gimme More", is sleek, sexy and rather enticing. Produced by Timbaland protégé, Danja Hills, the song takes stand despite the lackluster VMA performance. "Gimme More's" synthesizing and ridiculously catchy appeal propelled the song to the number three spot on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and most downloaded position on iTunes. With the opening line "It's Britney, bitch", Spears provokes listeners throughout the number. "You want more? I'll give you more," she sings at the peak of the bridge in the midst of her breathy vocals. Production is polished while the synths and appropriately placed bleeps create the effect for the heavy dance single.

On "Piece of Me", Spears takes a strikingly self aware stance. It's challenging, confrontational and even a bit threatening every time she says "Are you sure you want a piece of me?" The defiant aim at the American media and paparazzi takes life more than the usually "It's oh so hard being a celebrity" rant. As her digitally enhanced voice melodically flows through a the deep head bopping bass of what sounds like the clashing of coins stammering against each other, Spears takes on her public persona. "I'm Mrs. Lifestyles of the rich and famous / I'm Mrs. oh my God that Britney's shameless / I'm Mrs. extra extra this just in / I'm Mrs. She's too big, now she's too thin," she sings in the chorus. The track, produced by Swedish duo Bloodshy & Avant who are also responsible for Spears' Grammy award winning track Toxic, is one of the few times we hear some personal insight even if she isn't credited for the writing. Toy Soldier, produced by a collaboration from Bloodshy & Avant and Sean Garret, is a high energy, fast tempo track. Part of its catchiness consists of a steady marching band style drum beat which hovers the pre-chorus and enters midway as Britney's highly grated vocals sings of being "sick of toy soldiers."

Protestant Chaplain's Column

Yesterday I had the opportunity to visit a private secondary school in Izmir, Turkey. This was a school that had been started by American Missionaries 125 years ago. In recent years the school has been turned over to a Turkish foundation and is now run by that foundation.

The School Administrator spoke to me about his frustrations as an educator. In Turkey there are rigid exams after eighth grade and after high school. If a person does not do well on the exams they cannot proceed. He, as an educator, gets pressure to have the school teach to the exam that takes place after the 12th grade. At the same time, he as an educator wants his students to learn to think and be creative. He wants them to learn lessons that no exam covers—community responsibility, compassion, understanding and how to think for themselves.

In our world there are many complex problems that don't have easy solutions. Memorized formulas don't solve the problem or problems. What is often needed is creative thinking by individuals who are willing to reach out and be innovative.

Just as the educator in Turkey is caught by pressure to teach to the exam and not to teach broader concepts, increasingly there is the same kind of thinking in our own country.

Back at the dawn of time, when I was a student, I and my friends often complained about some of the classes we were required to take. We grumbled, "What is the point of this?" And yet over time, some of those "pointless" classes have been of tremendous assistance.

Next time you sit in a class frustrated as to why it is required, think about it as being a part of "education" and the "broadening" of the mind. You aren't students here at WSC for training, you are here to learn and be educated.

Likewise all good professors want to challenge their students to think and grow. It isn't just about passing exams or getting good scores.

When I read Jesus' teachings, I find that a large part of what he was trying to teach his followers is to open their eyes and see, to open their ears and hear, to open their minds and think, to open their arms and embrace. Jesus was very much the teacher who wanted to educate his followers so that they could go into the world and help to be a part of solutions.

If you would like to speak further, I invite you to give me a call, send me and e-mail (BSchoup@hotmail.com) or drop by Second Congregational UCC.

Pastor Bruce, Protestant Chaplain

'Bee Movie' not quite buzz-worthy

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: B

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then man would only have four years of life left."

This quote is often attributed to Einstein but that has never been confirmed.

Regardless, the message remains: bees are vital to the world's ecological order. Without their pollination of plants and produce, mankind's food sources and natural environment would wither and die. This is the lasting image Jerry Scinfeld's first major motion picture, "Bee Movie," hopes to engrain in the mind of children. Just as the "Happy Feet" goal was to warn youngster of the dangers of global warming, "Bee Movie" wants everyone to save the bees.

The interesting thing is that this message does not develop until half way through the film. Up to that point, the film is a depiction of the undesirable life a communist society brings. Woody Allen made a superior computer animated film with this very premise in 1998 called "Antz."

As a matter of fact, both films are very similar. Both have tones that mimic that of their comedian creators. Both have 'adult' jokes that aim for a much older audience then the film's style dictates. One difference being that "Antz" maintains this adult humor throughout the direction you would expect it to considering its primary audience, which makes it a nice change of pace from the typical CGI fare, but it still feels contrived in the end. Its mixed messages and lack of a truly cohesive story make the film feel a bit sloppy. However, this jumpiness gives Seinfeld more freedom to crack jokes. It isn't vintage Jerry (he is clearly watered-down given the while "Bee Movie" mixes its style up and feels like a hybrid of "Antz" and "A Bug's Life."



Photo courtesy of http://content.answers.com/main/content/wp/en/9/9a/Bee_Moviegraphic)

The cast Seinfeld has assembled is tremendous, employing the voice talents of Renee Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman and the hysterical Chris Rock.

If there is one thing this film could use more of, it's Chris Rock as Mooseblood the mosquito. He definitely should have become Jerry's sidekick throughout the film given the fact his dialogue had me laughing harder than anything else by far.

The story doesn't go in but his writing shines when he is having coffee shop-esque discussions with Zellweger. Let's just hope in his next movie he doesn't use that high, unpleasant, panicky voice quite as often. It's as irritating as a... well... you know.

BOTTOM LINE: In the end Bee Movie is a B-movie.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

Top 10 tear-jerkers

Desson Thomson
The Washington Post

If you watch these movies with me, bring Wellington boots. They'll keep your feet dry. In order of bawlitude:

— "Old Yeller" - The crying boy, the rifle, the beloved dog. I can write no more.
— "House of Sand and Fog" - Cultural hatred, Ben Kingsley's watery eyes and a truly American tragedy.
— "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" - Peter O'Toole loses the love of his life, and my dignity, to Hitler's doodlebugs.
— "Truly Madly Deeply" - Juliet Stevenson's crying tsunami over the departed Alan Rickman engulfs us all.
— "Terms of Endearment" - Shirley MacLaine and Debra Winger in the hospital room. Nurse, we'll take those Kleenexes.
— "Osama" - God is nowhere in sight when the Taliban catches a 12-year-old girl posing as a boy so she can support her family.
— "Glory" - A black Civil War regiment fights for a freedom it can never enjoy. Grace under pressure was never so heartbreaking.
— "The Green Mile" - Sappy? Sentimental? Whatever. Michael Clarke Duncan's last walk gets me every time.
— "The Lives of Others" - One man's dissolution over East German socialism is humanity's powerfully affecting gain.
— "Ghost" - Who knew we'd get this choked up over Patrick Swayze?

Spears - Continued from Page 7

The Toxic-esque, "Radar," is clever. Including an actual radar-blip sound effect, its futuristic and simplistic melody is nothing but ear candy.

The 80s inspired, "Heaven on Earth," relies on several vocal layering and hammering bass as Spears sings of the many things she would do for her lover. It's Kylie Minouge transcending sound is pure Euro dance. T-Pain lends his producing hand on the funky "Hot As Ice," where Spears croons over an Outkast like beat while "Ooh Ooh Baby" finds the singer confessing her infatuation for her lover in a trance like melody.

The Pharell penned, "Why Should I Be Sad," closes the album with a final look at the K-Fed situation in Britney vision. The song which talks of love gone wrong is the closest thing to a ballad on the LP. "I sent you to Vegas / With a pocket full of paper / And with no ultimatums on you / I thought what could separate us / But it just seemed that Vegas / Only brought the playa out of you," she confesses with a tinge of regret in her voice. Spears takes poise and lead as seductress in pursuit of her desires over and over again on "Blackout." Her passion, lust and forefront inability to let lose drives most of the album's lyrical gist. After all is said and done, she surprisingly comes off as comfortable in her skin and as convincing as she did panting her way through "I'm a Slave 4 U" back in 2001, except for the tiny fact that she's actually the mother of two now and the days of straddling the lines of sexuality and wholesome purity are ancient history.

Production and inverted studio tricks help "Blackout" become hypnotically catchy but it's the magic that Spears evokes that push these songs to the edge. You can't just stick an artist with a hit producer and expect good music. Katherine McPhee, anyone? Chemistry matters. The LP is in with commercial appeal but from the girl whose past year has been included a failed marriage with America's lowlife, a razor and rehab, all while walking the edge of insanity, one would look for the content to be say a bit more insightful? That seems to be the part of Spears that even *US Weekly* doesn't have the scoop on and may never. "Blackout" is at times redundant and mostly sexually overloaded but nonetheless, a slice of undeniably compelling, tantalizing and luminous pop. Rumored second single, Break The Ice, has already taken storm on New York City's Z100. The song uses pounding drums as Britney's drawl is pronounced upon her panting and seductive vocals. "It's been a while. I know I shouldn't have kept you waiting but I'm here now," she says pausing mid-way. Good to know. Welcome back, Britney!



Photo courtesy of www.hecklerspray.com/date/2007/08

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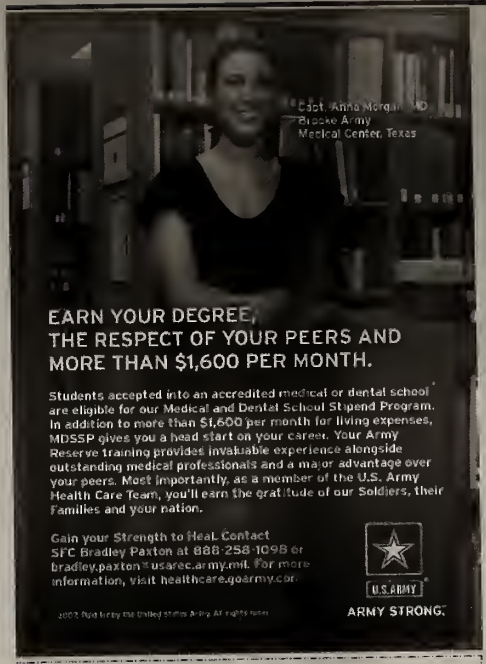
Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.



PERSONA
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR WORK PUBLISHED?

THEN SUBMIT YOUR ORIGINAL POETRY, FICTION AND ART TO WSC'S LITERARY AND ART MAGAZINE!

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THE DEADLINE FOR WINTER SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 14, 2007

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS E-MAIL AHAZELTINE0165@WSC.MA.EDU

Commuter Council Annual

Winter Coats/Clothing Drive

...to benefit Noble Hospital patients of need





Students
Bring back items from home...

One central drop-off location -
Ely Campus Center Information Desk
Now through November 28th

Commuter Council members will come to faculty offices to pick up items – Call Deb Niles-Morgan @ 5446

Theater Production: Danton's Death by George Buchner

Wednesday, November 14 - Saturday, November 17

Ely Studio Theatre production: Danton's Death by George Buchner

8 p.m. plus 2 p.m. matinees Friday and Saturday

Ely Studio Theatre

International Education Week



Study Abroad

Attend special information day
Thursday, November 15th

Ely Campus Center
10:30 -3:00

Jacoby Ellsbury: 2008 starting center fielder?

Teresa Dollfus
Sports Columnist

After making an impression on Red Sox Nation and the Red Sox front office in the postseason, Jacoby Ellsbury could very well be the next starting center fielder for the Boston Red Sox.

Ellsbury began this year playing in Double A Portland, and by the end of October he was starting in each game of the World Series. He proved to everyone that he could handle the pressure of the big stage.

The 24-year-old Oregon native quickly won the support of the fans and his teammates in the playoffs with his dedication. Ellsbury hustled on the bases, stole bases and dove for line drives in the outfield.

With Coco Crisp slumping during the playoffs, Terry Francona called upon Ellsbury to play center field at the end of the ALCS against the Cleveland Indians. After that, Ellsbury started every game and Coco Crisp came in later in the games as a defensive replacement.

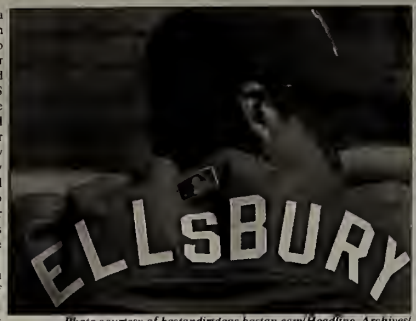


Photo courtesy of bastandirdags.bastan.com/Headline_Archives/

Each member of Red Sox Nation fondly remembers when Ellsbury stole second base in Game 2 of the World Series to win the country free tacos from Taco Bell. Crowds of people swarmed Taco Bells everywhere between 2 and 5 p.m. on Oct. 30, to get their free taco thanks to Jacoby Ellsbury, or Tacoby Bellsbury, as he has been affectionately nicknamed because of this.

Even though the off season has just begun, there have already been rumors of a proposed Coco Crisp trade. One team that is reported of having interest in Crisp is the San Diego Padres. Could this trade actually happen?

It seems that the Red Sox are determined to have a place in the big leagues for Ellsbury next season, which means that Theo Epstein could pull a trade with San Diego before spring training in February. However, it all depends on whether or not Epstein finds the right deal.

Now an even bigger question for Red Sox fans, what could this switch in center fielders mean for the line up?

In comparing Crisp and Ellsbury, they have a few similarities. They are both fast on the base path and both provide excellent defense in the outfield. A sizeable difference between the two, however, is that Ellsbury's bat proved to be more consistent than what Crisp's was toward the end of the postseason. The Red Sox are looking for a bat, and Ellsbury seems to be able to fulfill that need.

All signs point to Ellsbury being the starting center fielder for the Red Sox in 2008. He became a fast favorite in Boston and it doesn't look like he is going anywhere in the near future.

School record-breaker plays last game

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

This past Saturday, Nov. 3, record breaking senior wide reciever, Scott McIntrye, played in his last game as an Owl.

Senior Day took place at Worcester State where the Owls, and their 13 seniors, went out in style with a 7-0 victory. The Owls ended the season with a 5-4 record, which is a far cry from where the team was last season.

"The transition from last year to this year was huge," McIntrye said. "Last year we were 1-8, and walking on campus you had that persona about you. But everyone worked hard in the off season and the experience helped."

McIntrye, a Special Educations Major who broke the school record for receptions in a season (76), said he hopes to teach in the classroom and on the field one day. However, as far as the record goes, McIntrye is very modest.

"Individually you have good things, and as a team you have good things, and going 5-4 as a team is good," said McIntrye. "But sometimes you look at yourself and everyone is doing their own job so having 76 receptions is a good thing."

A Briston, Conneticut native, McIntrye has long been a New York Giants fan and his favorite player is Plaxico Burriess. He also said he started playing football at age eight, but played running back throughout high school. However, he said he always knew of his talents as a reciever and going into prep-school he wanted to catch the ball.

"Coming out of high school only two colleges looked at me," said McIntrye. "Then coming out of prep-school 30 colleges, and I ended up at Sacred Heart University."

McIntrye said he played at Sacred Heart for two years and was not happy so he transferred to Westfield where could also play baseball.

"I came here to Westfield to talk to coach Marino and I had a good feeling," said McIntrye.


Senior Scott McIntyre had another stellar day with 13 catches far 157 yards. McIntyre now has 75 catches this year, which is a single-season school record.
Photo By David Harris-Fried

He said that Coach Marino was one of the reasons he came to Westfield and after two years he knew it was a good decision. McIntrye said of Marino "He told us after the last game, 'If you need my help to get a job call me up.'"

Owls place third in Alliance

NORTH DARTMOUTH - The Westfield State men's cross country team placed third in the 13-team New England Alliance championships on Oct. 27 at UMass Dartmouth.

Southern Maine edged Keene State for the team title, 31-38, followed by Westfield (115) and Worcester State (121).

Seniors John Messer (8th place) and Andy Messer (12th place) earned all-conference honors for the Owls. Senior David Estabrook placed 27th, followed by Chaz Beard (32nd) and Phil Gingras (36th).


Senior John Messer attempts to overtake a Keene State runner during the New England Alliance championships at UMass Dartmouth

Owls rally for overtime victory

FITCHBURG, Mass. - Westfield State College's Megan Wolski (Plymouth, MA/Plymouth South) scored the game-winning goal with 9:01 remaining in the first overtime to lift the Owls past host Fitchburg State College, 3-2, last Wednesday night in Little East Conference field hockey action at Elliot Field.

Westfield, which scored two goals in the final 21 minutes of regulation to erase a 2-0 deficit, improved to 8-7 overall and 4-5 in conference play. Fitchburg is 2-13 and 0-9

Fitchburg State got on the board first when Paula Bartalamia (Tewksbury, MA/Tewksbury) scored in the 23rd minute. Sophomore Kaleigh Peterson (Townsend, MA/St. Bernard's) set up the Bartalamia tally.

Sophomore Vanessa Truax (Foxboro, MA/Foxboro) doubled the Fitchburg lead in the 45th minute on a feed from junior Heather DiTerlizzi (Shrewsbury, MA/Shrewsbury).

The Owls got on the board with 21:06 to play in regulation on an Alicia Gardner (Athol, MA/Athol) tally. Vicky Winson set up Gardner just inside the circle and the freshman blasted a shot that beat FSC keeper Emily Creen (Worcester, MA/Holy Name) on the left side.

Freshman Rachel Dionne (Agawam) tied the score with an unassisted goal with just under 10 mintues remaining in regulation. Dionne put in a missed shot off the far post that was taken by Kara Guittarr.

Owls host Volleyball Tournament

The Westfield State College women's volleyball team is hosting the Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference (MASCAC) tournament for the first time on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Woodward Center.

Westfield earned the right to host the toumament by winning the MASCAC regular season title with a perfect 5-0 record. Westfield's victory over runner-up Bridgewater State snapped the Bear's streak of 12 straight league championships and 114 consecutive victories vs. conference opponents. Westfield last won the conference championship in 1987.

The Owls host No. 4 seed Worcester State at 11:00 a.m. in the single-elimination toumament. Bridgewater plays Framingham State at 1:00 p.m. The championship match is slated for 3:00 p.m., with the winner receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Toumament.

NCAA regional competition will be held Nov. 8-10.

Dorm life a cesspool for disease

Katrina Powell
Voice Reporter

Ever wish that you could force your hygienically challenged roommate to clean up his/her act? Here's a great excuse to force Smelly into the shower.

Think about all the things you share with your roommate; clothes, make-up, the TV remote, etc. Now imagine getting a serious infection just from touching these objects, or even just from sitting on someone else's bed. A recent outbreak in an antibiotic resistant strain of Staph infection, called meathicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), has caused a scare across the country. This strain has only developed to the past years, after its constant exposure to antibiotics has created a "superbug", resistant to drugs.

And where is a perfect breeding ground for this "super" infection? You guessed it -- college campuses. Colleges are the one place where there are thousands of people grouped together on a daily basis. These large groups of people are also living together, which means that dorm life is especially dangerous because of the shared space. College students shower, eat, sleep and hang around in the same facilities, while confined to incredibly close quarters, thus giving the infection an easy way to be transferred from one student to another.

The infection usually lives on the skin harmlessly. In fact, 30 percent of people are carrying the infection right now. However, when the infection enters your blood-stream, you could be at risk. Students on college campuses often acquire cuts and open sores without getting proper medical attention, as students usually do not view a cut to be a serious injury (and Mom isn't there to bandage you up). But when you are sharing objects with other people, the infection could be easily passed into your blood-stream thru the cut. Also, sharing towels and clothes, and other objects that are placed directly on the skin, is a quick way to pass the infection. Even sports locker rooms and swimming pools are thriving with the infectious super bug.

MRSA infections cause skin lesions similar to the appearance of spider bites, and people with skin infections such as eczema are especially susceptible. The infection becomes deadly only when accompanied by extreme redness of the skin, fever, difficulty breathing, chronic headache or a stiff neck. This could lead to hospitalization, and if left untreated, death. However, the infection is avoidable with the practice of proper hygiene and eluding shared objects.

Unfortunately, MRSA isn't the only infection that you could pick up in the dorms. Mononucleosis, Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza are just a few illnesses that are highly contagious in close settings. Although these sicknesses are not deadly, unlike MRSA, they can still cause you some serious discomfort.

So, in order to stay healthy and germ-free this semester, make sure you shower daily, wash your hands often and try to avoid sharing objects that may be infested with germs.

1 theolympian.com

Ar you Google - re dy?

Personal Internet Presence: A Job Seeker Self-Audit

Returned to Sender
What is the e-mail address you use on your resume? _____

This e-mail is: ☐ Permanent or ☐ Expires in the (near) future

In your opinion, this address is: ☐ Professional ☐ Inappropriate for job searching (i.e. bellydancer4u@hotmail.com)

Google Yourself
Have you used a search engine, such as Google.com, to see what information about you is available on the Internet?

☐ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Once ☐ Never

If you have, were you comfortable with what you found? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is There Anybody Out There?

Do you belong to a social networking site (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Friendster, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For each site you belong to, would you be comfortable if an employer were to see your:

Profile?	☐ Definitely	☐ Give me a half-hour	☐ Employers check Facebook?!
Pictures?	☐ Definitely	☐ Give me a half-hour	☐ Employers check Facebook?!
Groups?	☐ Definitely	☐ Give me a half-hour	☐ Employers check Facebook?!
Friends' Comments?	☐ Definitely	☐ Give me a half-hour	☐ Employers check Facebook?!
Friends' Profiles?	☐ Definitely	☐ Give me a half-hour	☐ Employers check Facebook?!

Where's My Resume?
→Do you have a resume posted on any of these career web sites:

☐ Owl Link (Career Services' primary job posting system: https://myinterface.com/wsu/Eeid/student/home.aspx)

☐ Monster.com ☐ Careerbuilder.com ☐ Other _____

→Has your resume been posted on the Internet by your academic department? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

→Has your resume been posted on any student/academic group website that you belong to? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

For each site that you have your resume posted:

- Is your resume on these site(s) current? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are you familiar and comfortable with the site's privacy policy? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
- Do you know when the resume will be removed from the site(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
- Do you want all of your contact information to be viewed on these sites(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

You Are What You Type

If you have your own website or blog, would you be comfortable if a potential employer were to read its content? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever discussed a company, interview, job, etc. on your blog or website? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you follow the "If you wouldn't want to read it on the front page of the newspaper, don't put it in an e-mail" rule? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Action Plan
Based on your answers above, are you comfortable with the image of yourself that you are projecting through the Internet? ☐ Yes

If you answered "No," what steps do you plan to take to increase your level of comfort with your personal Internet presence?

- First, consider the areas (Google, posted resumes, social networking sites, etc.) where you have identified potential problem
- What could you fix immediately? What is going to take some research? What might take ongoing maintenance?
- Is there anything that you would like to discuss with a career counselor in the career center?

If you answered "Yes," think about what strategic steps you may be interested in taking to improve your web presence.

Steps To Take NOW:

1._____

2._____

3._____

Deaths make 2007 deadliest for U.S. troops

Amit R. Paley
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military announced Tuesday that five soldiers and a sailor had been killed a day earlier, making 2007 the deadliest year for American troops since the start of the war in Iraq.

The record death toll of at least 852 U.S. military personnel killed this year underscores the high cost of the American troop increase, launched in February, which has begun to drive down the sectarian violence that once gripped much of the country.

"The strategy was to interject our soldiers between the Iraqi citizens and the terrorists, insurgents and militias," Lt. Col. Douglas Ollivant, chief of plans for American forces in Baghdad, said in an interview. "A regrettable consequence of that is your casualties go up."

But the grim milestone belied a much more optimistic trend: Troop casualties have declined sharply since early summer. In October, the death toll for U.S. troops fell to 38, its lowest level since March 2006, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, a Web site that tracks military fatalities more rapidly than the Pentagon makes its numbers public.

Lt. Col. Dale Kuehl, a battalion commander in western Baghdad, said fighting in the spring had helped secure local neighborhoods. He said there had not been a roadside bomb attack in his area of operations for three months and no mortar or rocket attacks since July.

"In general, the area is quiet," Kuebl wrote in an e-mail. "The past year has been an emotional roller coaster. I have had some of the worst days of my life ... but I also have felt a strong sense of accomplishment."

"I am confident that we have established a much more secure environment for the people we have been tasked to protect," Kuehl added. "However, a part of me is afraid to believe what we have accomplished, knowing what it has cost to get us to today."

The deaths of the six troops Monday were a collective reminder of the dangers that the U.S. military still faces in Iraq.

In the northern province of Tamim, four soldiers were killed by an explosion near their vehicle while they conducted combat operations, the military said. In nearby Salahuddin province, a sailor was killed by an explosion, it said. And in western Anbar province, once a stronghold of Sunni extremism but now relatively calm, the military said a soldier was killed while conducting combat operations.

The attacks brought the total death toll for American troops in Iraq this year to 852, higher than the 845killed in 2004, when most of the casualties came during large-scale conventional battles, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

Col J.B. Burton, commander of the Dagger Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in northwestern Baghdad, said pitched fighting in May and June was a necessary part of the U.S. counterinsurgency plan.

"We had to get off these bases and get into the neighborhoods where the enemy was," he said. "We saw an increase in violence, but it enabled us talk to citizens and cause al-Qaida to lose control of their sanctuaries to the point where they're ineffective." The Sunni insurgent group al-Qaida in Iraq has asserted responsibility for some of the worst violence in the country.

In June, Burton's unit was seeing up to 600 violent events a day and more than 50 U.S. soldiers killed or wounded every month. Now the numbers are dramatically lower.

"Our last combat-related death — knock on wood — was in September," Burton said.

Across Baghdad, the number of American troops killed has plummeted from 58 in both May and June to 14 last month, according to Ollivant. "It looks like the beginning of a long-term trend to us, and we are, as we always say, cautiously optimistic," he said.

"We suspected we were going to have to pay a price up front as the cost of implementing" the counterinsurgency strategy, Ollivant said. "That is regrettable, and we miss every one we lost. But from where we sit now, it looks like those sacrifices have paid off."

At a news conference in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, Rear Adm. Gregory Smith said the violence would be far worse were it not for U.S. troops' success in discovering stockpiles of weapons.

"Simply put, it's the fuel that drives the insurgency that has led to the death and destruction witnessed here in Iraq for the past several years," said Smith, a U.S. military spokesman. Because of the troop increase this year, the number of weapons caches discovered has more than doubled from 2,667 in all of 2005 to 5,364 so far this year, Smith said.

In other indicators of a decline in violence, Smith said mortar and rocket attacks have decreased from more than 1,000 a month in May and June to less than 400 in October.

And the number of roadside bombs across Iraq has tumbled from about 65 a day in the fall of 2006 to less than 30 a day now, Smith said.

Meanwhile, violence against Iraqis continued across the country.

A mass grave filled with 22 bodies in the Lake Thar Thar region of Anbar was discovered over the weekend by Iraqi soldiers, the military said.

Near Samarra, a suicide bomber driving a car filled with explosives blew up near a police commando checkpoint, killing five policemen and one civilian, police lieutenant Haidar Kadhim said. Twelve other people were wounded.

And in Mosul, a member of the governing council, Aref Youssif al-Shabki, was assassinated, an Interior Ministry official said. Three of his bodyguards were also seriously wounded.

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Fri 11/09	Spring 2008 Registration 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wilson 138 Open Lab	Holiday Craft Fair 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall ABCD	Gaming Program 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Ely 232
Sat 11/10	Holiday Craft Fair 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall ABCD	Gaming on the Big Screen 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Women's Basketball v. Mt. Holyoke 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Alumni Turf
Sun 11/11	Basketball Game 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Parenzo Gym	Western MA Girls Soccer 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Alumni Turf	Roman Catholic Mass 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m Woodward Court 2
Mon 11/12	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	SNEA Meetings 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely SGA P. Mazza	CAB 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Tues 11/13	Sleep-Out 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ely Green	Persona "Flash Fiction Contest" 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Bates Computer Labs	Tracy Kidder 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Dever Auditorium
Wed 11/14	Transgender Day of Rembrance 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Learning the Interview Process 12:00 p.m.to 1:30 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	MASSPIRG Hunger Banquet 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Lower Lounge
Thurs 11/15	Earning Opportunity with Avon 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ely Lobby 1	Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Discussion 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Student Composer Concert 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dever Auditorium

Volunteers needed!
Help low-income families file income tax returns.
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ATTENTION:
Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII November 16, 2007 Issue X

Top 10 signs you had a bad Thanksgiving

1. You ran out of booze by 11 a.m.

2. Most frequently used word at dinner: Heimlich.

3. Meal was left-overs from last Thanksgiving.

4. Thanks to the new electric knife, your cousins are fighting over the wishbone...and your severed thumb.

5. The 'turkey' was wearing a dog collar.

6. Spent the day in Time's Square waiting for the turkey to drop.

7. Woke up from tryptophan-induced sleep to find yourself naked in the driveway.

8. When dinner came out, so did your boyfriend/girlfriend.

9. You spent it reading The Voice.

10. Your turkey dinner is the only breast you've touched all year.

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

Westfield State College students joined thousands in storming of nation's capitol to fight global warming

Westfield State College global warming activists hit the road last Friday morning, joining thousands of young people who descended upon Capitol Hill over the weekend to fight climate change.

"As a young person, I have the most at stake when it comes to global warming," said Vanessa Pilar, a junior and Westfield MASSPIRG Campus Climate Challenge Coordinator.

Pilar is a campus leader on efforts to combat global warming at Westfield. Just this year Pilar helped organize 16 other students from WSC to go to Power Shift, the largest global warming conference in history. Pilar traveled to Washington to bring her grassroots efforts to combat climate change directly to national decision-makers.

"We've already shown we can take action in our community. This weekend we went straight to the people who can make change for the entire nation instead of waiting for them to come to us," Pilar said.

This Monday's student lobby day marked the culmination of Powershift 2007 - a conference to highlight the importance of global warming to Congress, the Presidential Candidates and the Administration. In addition to having hundreds of meetings with representatives, students also rallied on the steps of Capitol Hill on Monday and testified before the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

Despite growing concern regarding climate change within the public at large and amongst young people in particular, Congress has yet to pass a strong global warming law that will achieve the 80 percent global warming pollution cuts that scientists believe are necessary to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

"We need action at the state level as well," said Pilar "There's a bill filed in the Mass. legislature right now which would put Massachusetts on the right track to stopping global warming and make us a national leader on fighting climate change." Students are petitioning Senator Knapik to endorse the Global Warming Solutions Act, filed by Senator Pacheco of Taunton, and have held a number of events on their campus including a global warming call-in day to educate fellow students about global warming and the bill they support.

"We know what we need to do to fight global warming," said Vanessa Pilar. "Now all we need is for politicians to hear our call."

www.MASSPIRGStudents.org
www.CampusClimateChallenge.org

Looking to make a difference on campus?
Join the GREEN TEAM
A student-run organization that advocates sustainability at Westfield State College.
For more information contact Frank Kuster fkuster@wsc.ma.edu or visit our Facebook group "Green Team"

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Iraq War veterans suffer more months after leaving

ANN SCOTT TYSON
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Soldiers who have served in Iraq are suffering substantially greater mental distress several months after leaving the combat zone than they do when they first return to the United States, according to a study by Army researchers to be published tomorrow.

One out of five active duty soldiers and more than 40 percent of Army reservists needed treatment, according to the study.

Soldiers were far more likely to report mental health problems — which ranged from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to depression — in a military screening three to six months after they returned from Iraq than they did immediately after they came home, according to the study, which will appear in the Nov. 14 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Particularly pronounced, it found, was the four- to five-fold increase in the number of soldiers reporting conflicts with family members and friends, which mirrors trends from past wars.

Initial screenings "substantially underestimate the mental health burden," according to the study, which adds to growing evidence that more than a quarter of recent Iraq combat veterans are grappling with psychological problems.

The study--by Col. Charles S. Milliken and Col. Charles W. Hoge of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Jennifer L. Auchterlonie of the Army Center for Health Promotion--concludes that the Army needs to intervene earlier with more mental health care for combat veterans and their and their family members, "before symptoms become chronically entrenched."

Contined on page 3

Check out page 4 for SGA's new weekly column!



Inside

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Kidder makes a mountainous impression on campus

Rebecca Everett
Voice Reporter

Tracy Kidder said Tuesday that he hoped to make Dr. Paul Farmer, the subject of his book "Mountains Beyond Mountains," as easy to connect with as possible. "I'd like to imagine the ways in which his life might connect with ours," Kidder said.

Kidder spoke in Devers Auditorium about Farmer's life and work as part of Westfield State's Guest Lecture Series.

"They were unusual circumstances to grow up in," Kidder began. Farmer lived with his parents and five siblings in a bus in Florida, Kidder said, until they moved to a boat moored in the bayou.

"He was a nerd who liked breaking rules," Kidder said of Farmer's school days. After high school Farmer received a full scholarship to Duke University in North Carolina, where he first enjoyed the opportunities wealth provides, Kidder said. "He tried out almost everything available to him," Kidder said. "Paul Farmer was a great deal more diligent in college than I was."

One of the things Farmer tried out, Kidder said, was an organization that sought to help poor migrant workers that picked tobacco near campus. The Haitian migrant workers sparked Farmer's curiosity, Kidder said. "Curiosity is a wonderful thing; it's where adventure begins," he said.

After graduation, Farmer volunteered in a Haitian hospital for a year where he saw widespread poverty, sickness and sadness, Kidder said

When Farmer raised money to provide the hospital with the equipment to do much needed blood transfusions, he was outraged to find that the hospital was charging patients excessive amounts to use it.

Kidder did not paraphrase Farmer's response: "I'm going to build my own fucking hospital, and there will be none of that there."

Kidder said that although Farmer received degrees in both medicine and anthropology from Harvard University over the next six years, he spent most of his time in Haiti building a hospital.

At age 27 Farmer and friend Tom White created Partners in Health, an organization to provide affordable health care in third world countries.

Kidder said of the Partners in Health hospitals, which are now in Peru, Moscow, Rwanda and parts of sub-Saharan Africa "all the care is first rate and nearly free."

Kidder said that Partners in Health also trains new medical staff. In Rwanda hospitals are "reproducing what they did in Haiti," aided by new staff that are former patients from Haiti.

Kidder said that although Farmer has "fancy credentials now," such as being a Harvard professor and an infectious disease specialist, he still spends more time in Haiti and Rwanda than in Boston.

After years of separation from his wife and daughter because of his work, Farmer and his family now live in Rwanda.

"Farmer's plea is that we pay attention to the world as it really is," Kidder said in closing. "Don't forget about the forgotten people of the world."

He addressed students directly, urging them to not be discouraged by the enormity of the problem. "There is no skill you can acquire that can't one way or another be used to make the world better," Kidder said.

Hookah smoking has health experts concerned

Janet Cromley
Los Angeles Times

Want to put away the cigarettes and talk with some interesting people? Go to a hookah bar, says Aaron Alu, as he takes a leisurely puff from a glass water pipe at the Mirage Coffeehouse and Hookah Lounge in Long Beach, Calif.

Apple-scented smoke drifts in the air as the police officer looks around genially. "I get to talk to people here that I otherwise wouldn't ever get to know." One patron looks up from her laptop and nods in agreement. "I'm sure it's not great for you," Alu adds, "but it got me to quit smoking cigarettes."

Although not even hookah fans suggest that smoking tobacco through a water pipe is healthful, many contend that drawing the smoke through the water removes some of the harmful chemicals. Scientists, however, point out that although the hookah might filter out some irritants, the smoke nevertheless contains high levels of nicotine, carbon monoxide and other toxic chemicals. The trouble is, they can't say exactly how unhealthful it is, particularly compared with cigarettes.

The potential risks, or relative safety, of hookah smoking has taken on added relevance as hookah bars have begun to sprout up across the United States in recent years.

There are more than 400 hookah cafes, according to an online database of hookah bars, with half in California, Illinois, New York, Arizona and Florida. California leads the pack with about 90 hookah bars and cafes, and the numbers appear to be growing, says Paul Knepprath, vice president of government relations for the American Lung Association of California. Hookah bars are especially popular among 18- to-24-year-olds, he says.

The growing popularity of hookah bars has led the American Lung Association and the World Health Organization to issue advisories on the dangers of hookah smoking.

"Any of the major diseases that are associated with cigarette smoking are associated with hookah pipe smoking," Knepprath says. The long-term dangers, he says, include lung and heart disease, cancer, emphysema and heightened asthma attacks.

But tell that to hookah smokers, who say the wave of relaxation that comes with every puff, along with the fellowship of other smokers, outweighs the risks.

Typically, a hookah consists of a bowl, which is filled with tobacco, affixed to a hollow tube that extends down into an enclosed jar partially filled with water. The user draws air from a hose affixed to the top of the jar, creating a vacuum in the air and forcing smoke up through the water.

The origins of the hookah are somewhat cloudy, but it has been traced back as far as the 14th century, when water pipes appear to have been used in Africa. By the 17th century, the hookah had spread throughout Turkey, Greece and the Middle East. (It famously made its way into literature in 1865 in the hands of the truculent, hookah-smoking caterpillar in "Alice in Wonderland.") Today, it's commonly reported that there are an estimated 100 million daily hookah smokers, but the origin of that number isn't clear.

The American Lung Association's Tobacco Policy Trend Alert, released in February, describes hookah smoking as the first new tobacco-use trend of the 21st century. This is particularly disheartening, Knepprath says, because the use of cigarettes and other forms of tobacco has declined dramatically in the past 40 years. "In California, we've reduced tobacco consumption by more than 60 percent just since 1989."

A key sticking point among researchers is the question of just how much nicotine and other dangerous chemicals are contained in hookah smoke, and how much of that is absorbed by the body.

Continued on Page 3

Editor's Desk



I managed to erase a power point presentation I had made for one of my comm classes the day before I was due to present. I have been repeatedly yelled at to make back-ups of everything I do, because this isn't the first time I've managed to lose something very valuable. Needless to say, I've yet to learn.

But I'm going to an amazing fashion show, Fabulous!, in Springfield on Saturday with my lovely Managing Editor, going to New York in December and to a conference for college journalists in D.C. at the end of the month. I've got a lot of great things to look forward to! And the semester is almost over! I can't believe how fast these few months have just flown by.

The paper has had a great semester, and I can't wait to really get back into it in January. I do plan on having two more issues for the semester, so make sure to keep an eye out for them!

And as I've always said, anyone is more than welcome to get involved! I'm always getting emails and calls from new students who want to do something, whether it be copy editing, writing, photography etc. If you didn't get involved this semester but want to for Spring semester, let me know!!

The paper is receiving a lot of praise, and it's great! But I also would like to hear any critiques you, my amazing readers, may have. Anything from an error in a piece to the way the paper is displayed on the stands, I definitely want to hear them! Feel free to email me at TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu with any suggestions or comments!

Have a great & safe Thanksgiving!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Thanksgiving break



The new entrances into Ely

Iraq - Continued from Page 1

But it also cast doubt on the effectiveness of treatment for PTSD in what it called today's "overburdened" military medical system, finding "no direct relationship of referral or treatment with symptom improvement."

The study is based on Army health surveys completed by 88,235 soldiers who served in Iraq. 90 percent of whom were male and nearly 60 percent of whom were married. About 56,000 of those surveyed were in the active-duty Army, and 32,000 were in the Army Reserve or National Guard.

One reason the early screening detects fewer problems is that soldiers are elated upon returning home and do not want to spend time seeking care, Army officials said.

"When you come back ... you're almost euphoric ... you don't have any problems in the world," said Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Jones, an Army assistant surgeon general. But after a few weeks, he said, "the stress starts to resurface."

While reports of mental health problems increased for all types of soldiers between the first and second screenings, the National Guard and Reserve soldiers suffered such problems at significantly higher rates than active duty soldiers.

For example, in the second screening, 24.5 percent of reservists reported concerns with PTSD, 13 percent with depression, and 35 percent with their overall mental health, compared with 16 percent, 10 percent, and 27 percent of active-duty soldiers in the same categories.

Reservists may suffer more mental health problems because they disperse to different communities where they lack day-to-day support from their war-zone comrades, and face the added stress of transitioning back to civilian jobs.

The study also found that while nearly 12 percent of active duty soldiers and 15 percent of reservists reported abusing alcohol, less than one percent of each group was referred for substance abuse treatment. One reason may be that such treatment is not confidential and triggers automatic involvement of commanders, the study said.

MASSPIRG attends PowerShirt 2007

Rebecca Everett
Voice Reporter

Westfield State College students from MASSPIRG attended Power Shift 2007, a national youth summit on global warming, on Nov. 2-5 in College Park, Md.

"It was the largest gathering to tackle the task of fighting global warming ever. There were about 6,500 students that attended," said Vanessa Pilar, one of the 16 Westfield State students to attend the conference.

"During the weekend student leaders from across the country attended workshops, seminars and heard speeches from environmental activists, politicians, authors and other students," Pilar said.

The first day of the conference consisted of panels, which MASSPIRG member Lynsey Freeman attended. "During these panels we got to hear people speak about various issues related to global warming," Freeman said. "I attended one, which was pretty popular, in which Ralph Nader spoke. The second day was workshops. It was similar to the panel day, but more interactive," Freeman said.

On the final day of Power Shift 2007 students rallied on Capitol Hill and lobbied their representatives. "It was such a hopeful and awe-inspiring site to see youth from across the country banded together to start a green revolution," Pilar said.

Westfield State students were among those that kept protesting after the rally. "Roughly one third of the group traveled to CitiBank to protest because they claimed they were a green company, when they really invested in coal and other dirty energy sources," Freeman said.

"Some people shoveled a pile of coal out onto the pavement in front of the building while the rest of us pretended to cough and fall down dead from Carbon Dioxide poisoning."

Freeman and Pilar both said that the bank was shut down for a day as a result of the protest and the CEO of CitiBank resigned the next day.

"Everyone that went on the trip is dedicated to the issue of global warming and is committed to educating our peers about the inevitable danger that is looming in the near future," Pilar said.

Hookah - Continued from Page 2

"There's certainly no evidence that it is safer," says Dr. David Burns, professor emeritus of medicine at the University of California, San Diego and a contributor to the WHO report, "and there is evidence that it contains many of the toxic constituents of tobacco. And you may get them in higher doses than you would from smoking cigarettes because of the very large volume of smoke that you ingest." Hookah sessions typically last 20 to 80 minutes, and the mildness of the smoke allows for deeper inhalations.

A World Health Organization Advisory issued in 2005 reports that during one 40- to 45-minute hookah session, a smoker could, in theory, inhale the equivalent of 100 cigarettes. A study in the July issue of Pediatrics found that carbon monoxide concentrations in the blood of hookah smokers was quadruple that of cigarette smokers. And in a 2004 review of hookah studies, lead author Thomas Eissenberg at Virginia Commonwealth University reported that hookah smoke generated by a machine appears to contain substantial amounts of nicotine, arsenic, cobalt, chromium and lead.

Apparently it's a boon for periodontists: Gum disease has been found to be five times as prevalent among hookah smokers as among cigarette smokers, according to an online report in the July 2007 British Medical Journal.

But the actual science behind some of the statistics cited about hookah smoke is problematic, says Kamal T. Chaouachi, a Paris-based tobacco researcher who is widely published on the subject.

While not disputing the dangers of hookah smoke, Chaouachi notes that many statistics cited about hookah smoke are based on studies conducted using machine-produced smoke, which isn't consistent with the way hookahs are actually smoked. In addition, the studies vary in the types of tobacco tested, the temperature at which it's burned and the type of charcoal used to keep the tobacco lighted , all of which can affect results greatly. Consequently, there's a discrepancy in findings.

Burns, a contributor to the WHO advisory panel, is equally worried about the inconsistencies and overall lack of data on the effects of long-term hookah smoking. "We know very little about the outcome of that behavior, whether people develop substantial levels of disease from use," he says. "We're quite concerned at this point in the social history" of the hookah.

Public-health experts worry that hookah smoking might lead to cigarette smoking. "One of the concerns the American Lung Association has about any kind of social smoking is that it's a possible gateway to cigarette smoking," Knepprath says.

Hookah users dismiss such concerns. Some even see the hookah as a way to give up cigarettes.

Back at the Mirage, Alu, 34, takes another puff and surveys the scene. He knows the patrons at the other tables, including Kayla, a college student and former cigarette smoker who already has spent hours there, and Tom, a newcomer who's hoping the hookah will help quiet his constant cravings for cigarettes.

"I like the cross section," Alu says. "I can come here and I'll talk to students. Tom over there is 68, and we would never talk if it wasn't for being here together."

As far as the advisability of young adults getting together and smoking, there are plenty of worse ways that they could be spending their time, he says. "It's a way for people to socialize without drinking at a bar, then driving and endangering people."



How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

CAREER BUSTERS
or
How to Sabotage your career regardless of grades, degree or experience!

MySpace, Facebook, cell phone bills. JBoard – familiar terms? Wondering what these have to do with your career? Take notice. these things matter more than you think.

"The latest statistics from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) show that almost 80 percent of the companies surveyed are conducting background checks on potential employees," (NEHRA, Fall 2007). Employers are now checking social networks and credit bureaus along with the traditional on and off campus background checks. Employers are reviewing these for internships as well as full and part-time employment.

A recent article on CareerBuilder.com, "Warning: Social Networking Can be Hazardous to Your Job Search" warns: "That cute, affable guy who brags of his drunken exploits on Facebook.com may be meeting a lot of other partiers online, but he's probably not getting added to the 'friends' lists of many corporate recruiters. A recent study by the executive search firm ExecuNet found that 77 percent of recruiters run searches of candidates on the Web to screen applicants; 35 percent of these same recruiters say they've eliminated a candidate based on the information they uncovered," (Kate Lorenz. CareerBuilder.com Editor, 24/09/2007).

"You'd be surprised at what I've seen when researching candidates," says Gail, a recruiter at a Fortune 500 company who recently began looking up potential hires on the Web.

"We were having a tough time deciding between two candidates until I found the profile of one of them on MySpace. It boasted a photo of her lounging on a hammock in a bikini, listed her interests as 'having a good time' and her sex as 'yes, please.' Not quite what we were looking for."

"Another time I went to a candidate's site and found racial slurs and jokes," Gail continues. "And there was yet another instance where a candidate told me he was currently working for a company, yet he left a comment on a friend's profile about how it 'sucked' to be laid off, and how much fun it was to be unemployed!"

Students are encouraged to think carefully before posting information that might damage their employment prospects.

Think twice before engaging in reckless behavior on and off campus. Don't let a night of Red Sox celebration tarnish an otherwise clean slate. Be careful with consumer credit. Delinquent cell phone, car and student loans can come back to haunt you. When posting online, use caution and monitor what your friends' post that might include you!

Kate Lorenz concludes with the following advice:

"Not all employers search candidates and employees online, but the trend is growing. Don't let online social networking deep-six your career opportunities."

Protect your image by following these simple tips:

1. Be careful. Nothing is private. Don't post anything on your site or your "friends" sites you wouldn't want a prospective employer to see. Derogatory comments, revealing or risqué photos, foul language and lewd jokes all will be viewed as a reflection of your character.
2. Be discreet. If your network offers the option, consider setting your profile to "private," so that it is viewable only by friends of your choosing. And since you can't control what other people say on your site, you may want to use the "block comments" feature. Remember, everything on the Internet is archived and there is no eraser!
3. Be prepared. Check your profile regularly to see what comments have been posted. Use a search engine to look for online records of yourself to see what is out there about you. If you find information you feel could be detrimental to your candidacy or career, see about getting it removed -- and make sure you have an answer ready to counter or explain "digital dirt."

If you have any questions about these matters, feel free to contact your Career Center at careers@wsc.ma.edu or (413) 572-5206.

Maureen McCartney
Director
WSC Career Center

Sorry. You aren't fit to be a parent... You're too fat



Erin E. Ethier

Psychology Columnist

The American Society is used to hearing about what we should eat and what we shouldn't, how much to exercise and what is too much, how much we should weigh and what is just too big. But did you ever think that your weight would constitute whether or not you can adopt children?

Parents seeking to adopt are finding out that their body weight can affect the adoption agency's choice on who they choose as "fit" parents. Sadly, it is people who are labeled as "obese" that may not get the chance to adopt. An article in The Valley Advocate called by Jullet Samuels, explains that a man named Gary Sticklaufer, already an adoptive parent of several children, was "judged too fat to make a good adoptive father to his own cousin." Sticklaufer wasn't just told he was an unfit parent, but his cousin was actually taken away from his care.

Since when does weight have to do with parenting skills? I can understand that obesity can be unhealthy and that doctors and professionals think that children might model their parents' behavior, but it seems like denying adoption rights is a harsh punishment for something that shouldn't even be penalized.

Studies have even found that people who are overweight but exercise daily are more healthy and at less risk of heart attack or stroke than that of a person who is thin and does not exercise. Samuels bluntly states that "a fit fatso is healthier than a sedentary skinny." If there is proof to this study, then why does our society seem to be on the exact opposite end of the spectrum?

Corrections:

One of our A&E columnists' name was spelled wrong in the last issue. The correct spelling is James Dinh.

Sorry James!!

Winter Coats/Clothing Drive - Commuter Council

"Making Winter Warmer"
Community Service Project

STUDENTS...please bring back winter coats/jackets & other winter clothing you no longer wear for donation.



One central collection center has been set up at the Information Desk in the Ely Campus Center Lobby.

Collections through Wednesday November 28th...

`Surge' and go

Los Angeles Times

The latest statistics are in and, by every reasonable measure, the U.S. military is making commendable progress in lessening the violence in Iraq.

Iraqi civilian and military deaths have plummeted in recent months, as has the number of American troops killed or wounded. Bombings are down, attacks on U.S. troops have plunged and the ghastly daily count of corpses bearing the signs of sectarian torture is markedly lower. While the U.S. military's data are rosier than some other tallies, all the indicators of violence are now, mercifully, pointing down. As a result, some of the 2 million Iraqi refugees who have fled their homes have begun to come back -- 46,030 of them reentered the country in October, according to the Iraqi government.

Analysts will continue to debate how much of the progress is because of the "surge" of 30,000 U.S. troops last spring, how much is the result of Iraqi Sunnis in Anbar province and elsewhere making common cause with the United States against al-Qaida terrorists, and how much is because ethnic cleansing of some neighborhoods is complete and the "enemies" within have fled or been killed. All of these factors undoubtedly played a role. And the daily carnage, though lessened, remains horrific. The high casualty rate earlier this year made 2007 the deadliest for U.S. troops in this tragic misadventure.

Still, now is the moment to praise the U.S. military for doing what it said it would do when it embarked on the surge: reducing the violence so as to allow Iraqis breathing space to work out the modus vivendi that has so far eluded them. We salute them and hope that their blood and tears are not squandered by whatever comes next.

The question, however, is what should come next. The surge has succeeded militarily; it has so far been an utter failure politically because there has been no progress toward reconciliation. Anbar is more peaceful, but Basra is more racked than ever by fighting among Shiite warlords. There is no oil law, no plan for reversing de-Baathification, no progress toward an integrated police force, no plan for federalism that would accommodate Iraq's ethnic and regional aspirations while keeping the country from fracturing.

Without actually saying so, the Bush administration is now trying to move the goal posts, yet again, by arguing that stopping the violence in and of itself constitutes success. The president and the secretary of Defense have both mentioned South Korea as a model of where the United States might be heading in Iraq: leaving perhaps 35,000 U.S. troops there, perhaps for a decade or more, to keep a modicum of peace, prevent the country from splitting up and keep the neighbors out. But U.S. troops in South Korea were helping to keep an external enemy, North Korea, from crossing an armistice line. U.S. troops in Iraq are trying to suppress a sectarian civil war, not to protect a fragile peace. Neither the American nor the Iraqi publics will tolerate a prolonged U.S. occupation of Iraq. The surge has created an opportunity to leave -- and leave we must.

Student Government Association Column



Letter From SGA
Student Involvement
John Petty, President of Student Government Association

Student Government wants to thank everyone who took our survey concerning the Campus Movie Channels (70 and 71, not HBO and Showtime). SGA will take all the data into account and plan accordingly. We hope to use surveys more often to help us get a sense of how you, the students, feel on certain issues, so please keep an eye on your student e-mail accounts.

Student Government encourages you to inform us of issues important to you, we will do our best to address to all issues, if we know of your concerns, ideas, etc, we can look into it for you. Please e-mail president.sga@wsc.ma.edu with all your concerns. You can also call us at extension 5429 or visit us in the lower floor of Ely below the Library. Thank you all and have a great Thanksgiving Break!

All the Best,

John J Petty III
President
Student Government Association
413-572-5439

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to come by the Student Government Association located in the basement of Ely or contact us by e-mailing president.sga@wsc.ma.edu or calling extension 5429.

Voices Overheard

What was the wierdest thing you ate as a child?



Megan Wolski
Class of 2008
Communications

"Peanut butter and banana sandwiches."



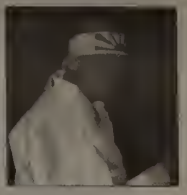
Talynn Gormely
Class of 2008
Communicatons

"Potato bread. The kids used to make fun of me."



Sam Chery
Class of 2008
Political Science

"I once ate laundry detergent... why? I have no idea."



Kyle Kaelberer
Class of 2009
Criminal Justice

"I used to eat raw oysters that my friend's dad would bring home from fishing."

Compiled by Eryn Carter

Personal clues spur Internet sleuth

TRAVIS F. SMITH

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

I am an investigator, by hobby if not by trade, the kind of person who looks in stairwells just to see where they go.

So when I meet a couple at a wedding and find out they're prosecutors, I look them up in a database of court cases to see if they've worked on anything interesting.

Or, if I know someone who works in the entertainment industry, I'll look up his or her credits on IMDb, Variety.com or Studiosystem.com.

At a conference, when people asking questions announce who they are and where they're from, I'll see if I can find them on Google in the time it takes for their question to be answered.

When our neighbor tells me she's bought a town house, I deduce which real estate listing it is based on clues from our conversation. (How many bedrooms? How far away? Do you think it'll take much work before it's ready for you to move in? Got it!)

And when my mom tells me she fell asleep watching a movie on TV, I'll try to figure out which film it was from the first half of the plot. Mom likes this too because it means I can fill her in on how the movie ended.

However, as more and more personal information -- information that's often impromptu and unfiltered at its origin, like blog comments, Facebook wall posts and Flickr party pictures -- moves online, my habits are bumping into a shifting (though not entirely unjustified) expectation of privacy in online spaces.

I think many people would agree it's probably kosher to look up someone's LinkedIn profile after you've met them at a conference. But is it all right to do that to your landlord?

If someone gives you his or her e-mail address, is it OK to then check that person's domain registration to find out where they live? And does it matter why you're doing it? Is plain curiosity worse than to find out if they live in the same area that you've visited as a tourist?

Is it OK to follow the Twitter feeds of people you've never met? What if it's because they're in your industry? Your neighborhood? Or if they're just funny? Or cute?



Photo courtesy of www.brotherjones.com/doug/portfolio/people/sleuth

If a friend of a friend you meet at a party talks about having traveled someplace. is it a faux pas to search for his vacation photos on Flickr and comment on them? What if they are a woman's photos? Are there different rules for men and women, as searchers and searchees?

I recently met a woman while playing ultimate (the Frisbee sport). She seemed outgoing and was a decent player, and it was the end of the summer season. We talked on the field, introduced ourselves, but had just the briefest of conversations. I knew my team needed players for the fall, and I remembered her name, so I looked her up on Facebook. Through Facebook, I sent her a message about the fall season and a "poke" -- a sort of a nonverbal online nudge -- and forgot about it. Six weeks later, I rediscovered her name on a to-do list and looked her up again. She was gone. Weird, I thought. Who gives up their account on "Crackbook?"

It took a day or two for it to dawn on me that she probably hadn't left Facebook. She probably had blocked me.

That's a weird feeling. It seems slightly wrong to even tell the story; it feels a bit like I'm admitting to having done something creepy. And it makes me wonder whether I've been blocked by others on Facebook or other networking sites.

I've done my share of ignoring messages and declining requests. But blocking seems more final. Isn't blocking something you do to a stalker? It's like I've been judged for something I didn't do -- or possibly for something someone else once did.

Since being blocked, I've been second-guessing my Web-searching habits -- and yet, I know that I'm not doing anything beyond looking at what's freely available. I just do it more often than most and am better at it than some.

The moral of the story?

I don't know. I guess it's that online spaces you might think are private aren't, and what you might think is acceptable online behavior isn't. And that the lines aren't just blurred; they haven't stopped moving yet.

'Lions For Lambs' comes up lame

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: D+

You have to love the irony of a propaganda film whose message is, 'don't listen to propaganda.' Such is the case with Robert Redford's ambitious failure "Lions For Lambs." What might have been a superb three-part mini-series with a cast of unknowns is instead a lackluster, star-studded symposium on the war on terror; eliciting all the usual arguments from all the usual players.

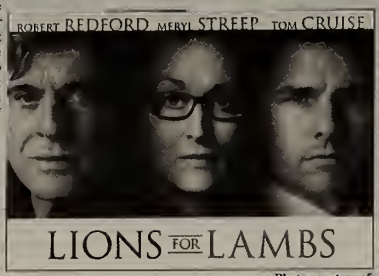


Photo courtesy of http://brightcove.vo.llnwd.net/d4/unsecured/media

There are three plots running parallel to one another throughout the film and all manage to go nowhere. Redford plays a college professor in one story line, as he attempts to stir a student (and the audience) out of apathy and into civic engagement. Redford pours on the rhetoric for 15 minute long passages at a time and only comes across as profound once by the end of the film. The rest of his babble, much like a college lecture, falls on deaf ears.

Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise co-star in another story line, this one involving Streep the reporter spending an hour of face time with Cruise the senator. Streep's talents as an actress are well documented but her role here as Janine Roth will not be mentioned in the montage before she receives her lifetime achievement Oscar, I guarantee it. She is instantly forgettable and borderline irritating.

Cruise, on the other hand, stands out. He is the only person who delivers a note-worthy performance as the charismatic senator with veiled White House ambitions, Jasper Irving. The character's writing is predicable enough but Cruise finds a way to sell it and is, at times, captivating.

Both these stories take place in stagnant office locations with no visual appeal to speak of. In order to spice things up, they are inter-cut with a third saga, that of two army rangers (and former Redford pupils). Their CGI helicopter is shot at over Afghanistan while they put Senator Irving's military strategy into motion. They land on the least realistic snow a Los Angeles sound stage has ever produced. These 'action' sequences are laughable at best and would only suffice were they made for television, not a feature film. (And speaking of laughable, the doctored photos in Cruise's office of him with the President and other members of the administration are certainly worth a chuckle.)

To put it bluntly, this film is a mess. Take the movie's message to heart and stay away from propaganda... such as Redford's film "Lions for Lambs."

BOTTOM LINE: Even Cruise's return to form cannot save "Lions For Lambs" from being a preachy flop.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovie Dude

PERSONA

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



Then submit your original poetry, fiction and art to WSC's literary and art magazine!

Submissions can be handed in via printed hard copy or can be submitted on a CD/floppy disc. Please include your *name and e-mail* on all copies of your work so we can notify you. Hand in all submissions into the English Office in Bates Hall, first floor.

The deadline for winter submissions is December 14, 2007

If you have any questions e-mail gbrowstar@wsc.ma.edu or shazeltine0165@wsc.ma.edu

Put the picket line to good use

Mary McNamara
Los Angeles Times

To: Members of the Writers Guild of America, West
From: A Concemed Citizen

We are all very worried about the events of the last week. A writers strike is traumatic for everyone -- the writers, the networks, the viewers. Already we have lost late night, and it is only scant weeks before many of our favorite shows are replaced by reruns or reality TV.

But where a pessimist sees a strike, an optimist sees opportunity. Really, how else should one react to the news that "Big Shots" will cease after the 10th episode, except with exquisite relief? It can only be hoped that those of you writing for these shows will use your time on the picket line to rethink the obnoxious nature of some of your characters and the sexist, and un sexy, tenor of your plots.

In fact, given the disappointing ratings of many of this season's new shows, a strike isn't necessarily a bad thing. All of us can benefit from a break now and then -- look at "The Sopranos," perpetually hopped up on hiatus. Consider those hours in front of the studio gates as much-deserved, if ill-paid, Me Time.

You writers have put down your pencils, not turned off your brains. So much of the creative process takes place in the mysterious recesses of the central nervous system; there's no reason you can't use this raft of new free time to solve the many problems facing your shows. Why, this strike could turn out to be the best thing that could happen for some shows, including:

"The Bionic Woman"

Clearly the biggest disappointment of the season. Promising pilot, stunningly lame follow-through. I know there have been staffing issues, and no doubt studio issues, but honestly, you all have to get things moving. Literally. To make a show about a superhuman warrior girl boring takes some doing. Perhaps you could figure out what the show is actually about. Is Jaime (Michelle Ryan) going to stop kidnappings and diffuse bombs or is she going to continue to have an existential crisis? The "Matrix" grays and shiny blacks are great visual top-notes, but you need way more super-cool CG-enhanced fights and fewer sister scenes. You also need to acknowledge the fact that most bad guys prefer guns to hand-to-hand combat. And who is the star here? Jaime or Sarah? Requiring Ryan to watch some "Lara Croft" movies might help, but in the end the actors can do only so much soulful staring and tae kwon do sweating to make up for lack of plot.

"Journeyman"

There's so much going on here that every week is essentially a new show, and not in a good way. Is this a procedural with Dan the time-traveling reporter unraveling mysteries? A sci-fi love story in which the dead fiance turns out to have been an astrally challenged alien all along? An exploration of marriage in which we are all haunted by past loves, or perhaps a metaphor for modern life -- multitasking has become so entrenched that time no longer has meaning? I'd watch any or all of these shows, only what I've seen so far looks more like "Starsky and Hutch in Space" with more cryptic dialogue than the law should allow on network television. In the Thank Heaven for Small Mercies Department , no one is named Chuck or Darling or both, which they seem to be in every other new show.

"Carpoolers"

What should have been a show about the strange and accidental intimacy between strangers turned out to be about a bunch of middle-aged guys poorly channeling Lucy and Ethel. How can a show written in L.A. not have better jokes about driving? Silly people can be funny, but they must be grounded in pathos, not whining. It might be too late, but try downloading "The Bob Newhart Show" onto your iPhones and court the muse as you walk the line.

"Private Practice"

The numbers are good, but you have to think of the long haul. Enough with the semi-insulting single-gal frustration motif -- the cake bingeing, the dream obsession, the whole shower head thing. (The shower head thing! Writers have been shot for less!) If you insist on making Addison a romance-addled Everywoman (instead of the experience-tempered brilliant doctor she was on "Grey's Anatomy"), then pattern yourself on the master. You had the temerity to make the hat-in-the-air reference in the pilot, so when you hit a narrative roadblock, ask yourself: What would Mary Tyler Moore do in a situation like this? Make up little "WWMTMD?" wristbands as you picket, because I guarantee you it would not involve shower heads.

"Moonlight"

I keep getting e-mails telling me that this is a good show, although all evidence remains to the contrary. A vampire detective is a fine idea, but I at least hope for something more along the lines of "House" or "Monk" and less along the lines of Count Chocula. The show works when Mick is able to use his "special skills" to sense things others would miss -- why not do more with the ageless immortality bit? He's pretty old, so wouldn't he have a greater understanding of human nature than most people, in addition to the ability to move fast and smell vampires? The brilliance of "Interview With the Vampire," which kicked off the modern wave of pop blood-suckers, was not just the humanity of the main character but the richness of his experience and the wisdom that it brought him.

"Cavemen"

Just thank your lucky stars your little stinker premiered pre-Strike; otherwise you would be off the air permanently by now.

"Life"

Don't despair. Don't panic, and please, please, don't lose the groove. Keep doing what you're doing and pray the strike ends before we miss a week of Charlie Crewes. Because that's what I'll be doing.

Celtics cook Denver Nuggets

Rob McGinnity
Sports Columnist

The Celtics won last week, by a score of 119-92, against the Denver Nuggets. Denver is coming off a back to back game against the New York Knicks and it showed. In the first quarter, it was very noticeable that the nuggets didn't' have much in the tank. The Celtics came out firing on all cylinders. They scored 39 points and lead by 16 at the end of the first. The Celtics shot 71 percent in the first quarter and spread the ball well. Rajon Rondo had a few big steals and the Big Three were clicking together. Perkins looked surprisingly good on defense with a couple big blocks. Everyone got in on the mix. Rondo helped toward the win with his gritty defense and passing. The Nuggets looked sloppy and turned the ball over eight times in the first, many were steals by Rondo and blocks by Kevin Garnett. Celtics went on a 22-4 run early in the second quarter. Eddie House contributed 3's it seemed at a moments notice. Against one of the top teams in the Western Conference, the Celtics showed that they are for real this year. The Celtics shot an unbelievable 72 percent during a first half that was dominated by both offense and defense. There largest lead was as much as 41 points at one time. The final score doesn't do the game justice. The Celtics were moving the ball, got turnovers and shot a high percentage the whole game. The nuggets lead by high scorer Allen Iverson had no "answer" for the Celtics. The inside outside game worked to perfection. Kevin Garnett finished the game with 23 points and 13 rebounds. He had his shot working from all over the floor and his fadaway was un-guardable. "Jesus Shuttlesworth" a.k.a Ray Allen finished with 22 points and was very efficient from the floor as well. He is shooting 63 percent since joining the Celtics. The Big Three attributed to most of the offensive productive but other players added the intangibles. It's only three games in, but this year's Celtics team looks scary. I'm just glad that the Celtics are finally contenders. I have been a Celtics fan for as long as I can remember and for me it feels awesome to have suffered through the bad years for an exciting team like this. The Celtics are now 3-0 and it doesn't look like there going to get a loss anytime soon.



Photo courtesy of www.markn codemo.mu.nu/archives/2005_08_p hp

Pedroia named Rookie of the Year

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

Dustin Pedroia played the final two months of the season with a cracked bone in his hand, yet still managed to help the Red Sox win the World Series. He accomplished that and won himself the AL Rookie of the Year award. Pedroia is the first member of the Red Sox to win the AL Rookie of the Year award since shortstop Nomar Garciaparra did in 1997.

Back in the beginning of May when Pedroia was batting under .200, it would have been hard to envision him winning this prestigious award for excellence. The important thing is that Pedroia never lost confidence in himself, and neither did manager Terry Francona. Pedroia continued to put in 110 percent when he played, and Francona continued to put him into the starting lineup each day.

In the voting, Pedroia's fellow teammates Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima found themselves ranked fourth and sixth, respectively. Pedroia received 132 points to win Rookie of the Year and Delmon Young of Tampa Bay came in second with a total of 56 points.

Pedroia is the sixth member of the Red Sox to win this award and he is well deserving of it. He accomplished things that people thought that he couldn't, mainly because of his height. He is short for a baseball player, but he does pack a punch when he swings the bat.

Defensively, Pedroia made some spectacular plays and it is still unbelievable that he made those plays the last two months of the season with a broken bone in his hand. That type of injury would discourage most players from playing, but Pedroia never stopped.

The fact that he always gave everything that he had, even with a broken bone, shows his dedication to the sport and how much he enjoys it. Only someone with extreme love for the sport would continue to play with an injury, and he did.

All of his dedication and outstanding games got him this Rookie of the Year award. He was by far the best candidate for the award and Red Sox Nation is sure glad that he received it.

The Red Sox are lucky to have such an asset at second base.

Lowell plays the field

Kevin Davidoff
Newsday

NEW YORK -- Just last week, at the general managers' meetings, the New York Yankees' Brian Cashman said he expected Mike Lowell to return to the Boston Red Sox.

But free agents can negotiate with other clubs starting Tuesday, and Lowell, the 2007 World Series MVP, is still a free agent. And the Yankees intend to capitalize on that development -- which, in turn, could push Alex Rodriguez toward the rival Red Sox.

The Yankees will reach out to Lowell, who grew up in their farm system, and in short time, they could make him an offer.

"He's a player were going to certainly talk to," Cashman said Monday.

Cashman already has held extensive discussions this month with Lowell's agents, Sam and Seth Levinson, because the brothers also represent Jorge Posada, whom the Yankees are trying to re-sign.

The Red Sox have made a three-year offer to Lowell, reportedly for about $12 million per season. But Lowell apparently thinks he can get a four-year deal in the open market.

Cashman, since gaining full control of the Yankees in May 2005, has been conservative -- from a years standpoint -- in his contract offers to other teams' free agents. So he might not embrace the idea of committing four years to Lowell, who will turn 34 in February 2008 and who hit far better in Fenway Park than on the road this past season. But Lowell is an excellent defender, and his right-handed bat would balance the Yankees' predominantly lefty lineup.

If the Red Sox lose Lowell, then they would likely make a serious run at A-Rod, who nearly joined Boston in December 2003 but, after joining the Yankees, was treated harshly by Red Sox fans the past four years.

Andy Messer is All New England

NEW LONDON, Conn. - Senior Andy Messer capped his collegiate career by earning All New England honors at the NCAA Division III New England regional cross country championships Nov. 10.

Messer placed 33rd with a time of 25:13.4 over the five-mile course. His identical twin John Messer just missed All New England honors by finishing 36th in 25:36.2. The top 35 individuals are accorded All New England status. Both Messers did finish ahead of 2007 MASCAC champ Forest Wilbur (37th, 25:37.9) of Worcester State.

A total of 330 runners competed in the championship, with Williams College's Edgar Kosey of Kenya placing first in 24:55.4.

Amherst College edged archrival Williams for the team championship by a point, 117-118. The Messers led Westfield State to a 16th place out of 47 teams.

Westfield's other top runners were: Phil Gingras (125th, 27:03.5), David Estabrook (132nd, 27:08.1), and Chaz Beard (152nd, 27:39.1).



Photo courtesy of www.westfield state owls.com

Illangakoon to play in Australia

Former Westfield State College men's basketball player Gavin Illangakoon recently signed a professional contract to play in Australia.

The Melbourne, Australia, native will play for the 2008 edition of Albury-Wodonga Bandits of the South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL), which is the second highest level of basketball in Australia.

The Bandits joined the SEABL in 1984 and won their first East Conference championship in 2001. Albury-Wodonga is located three hours from Melbourne and one of the largest inland population centers in the country with 90,000 people.

"We here at Westfield State are elated that Gavin has the opportunity to pursue his goal of playing professional basketball," said Westfield State men's basketball head coach Rich Sutter. "He is a tireless worker who represented Westfield State extremely well both on and off the court."

Illangakoon finished his fine four-year Westfield State career with 913 career points. The 6-2 guard was a two-time all-conference player for the Owls. Last season he averaged 12.3 points per game and led the Owls in assists (4.3) and free throw shooting (95-for-128, 75 percent). He ranked second in steals (1.7 per game) and 3-point shooting (40-for-128, 38 percent).

Illangakoon is a high honors student and will graduate from Westfield State this December with a degree in economics and finance. He came to Westfield from Ellington, Conn., High School, where he was an international exchange student.

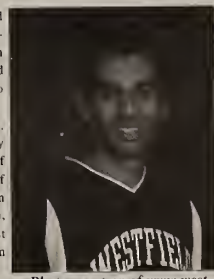


Photo courtesy of www.west fieldstateowls.com

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Fri 11/16	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Celtics vs. Miami 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 11/17	Gaming of the Big Screen 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Sabbath Services 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Card Night 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 11/18	Patriots vs. Buffalo 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Ely Main Lounge	Intramurals 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Celtics vs. Miami 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m Ely Main Lounge
Mon 11/19	Cardio Kickboxing 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wellness Center	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Body Toning 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wellness Center
Tues 11/20	Student Success Meeting 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ely 232	Intramurals 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Campus Green	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center
Wed 11/21	Ely Hall Construction Meeting 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Ely 130	Intramurals 12:00 p.m.to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Pat Conant Art Class Presentation 9:20 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. Wilson 139
Thurs 11/22	Intramurals 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Campus Green	Band Practice 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Construction Supervisor Training 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Wilson 426

Volunteers needed!
Help low-income families file income tax returns.
We need: Tax preparers, Greeters, Translators, Site Coordinators
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If interested in volunteering, contact Julissa Caraballo at 413-263-6500 X-6545 or write via e-mail: jcaraballo@springfieldpartnersinc.com
Springfield Partners for Community Action
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Springfield, MA 01109

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | November 30, 2007 | Issue XI

Top 10 things you don't want to hear from a guy dressed as Santa

1. "All I want for Christmas is a handful of Vicodin."

2. "Maybe this Christmas, someone will give you a shirt that's not that ugly."

3. "What do you want for Christmas...Ah, I really don't care."

4. "Feel my beard -- It's 100% squirrel."

5. "My rabbi said I'm going to hell for wearing this."

6. "Ho...Ho...Ho." (points to 3 old ladies)

7. "I may not be the real Santa, but that doesn't mean I haven't seen you while you're sleeping."

8. "Enjoy the last Christmas before we get nuked by Iraq."

9. "Hey handsome, meet me under the mistletoe in 10 minutes."

10. "For a hundred bucks, I'll let you unwrap me."

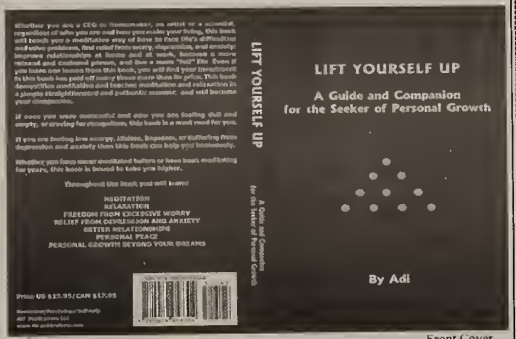
Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10



Six decades after the world community vowed "never again" to repeat the horrors of the Holocaust, and 12 years after the genocide in Rwanda, the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan is being called "a genocide in slow motion." Over the past three years, more than 200,000 Sudanese have been killed and over two million have lost their homes.
Photo courtesy of www.americaabroadmedia.org/programs.html

STAND for Darfur. Read on Page 5

Excellent Gift Idea!
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Back cover | Front Cover

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News on the go

State's official holiday tree has many Westfield State College roots

For the second year in a row, a giant tree from Westfield was chosen as the state's official holiday tree. This year's tree, a 60-foot blue spruce, has many Westfield State College connections from its infancy to its journey to the State House.

The Massachusetts Highway Department cut down the tree from the Mead family's front yard at 94 Heggie Drive on Friday morning, Nov. 16, and is scheduled to install the tree in front of the State House on Saturday.

Westfield State students help families have turkey dinner

The Westfield Service Center of the Salvation Army had run out of turkeys by Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 20, leaving several families without the turkeys they were promised for Thanksgiving. But a delivery by Westfield State College students helped the agency feed all the needy families on its list.

The Neighborhood Association of the college's Student Government Association collected enough donations on campus to buy 50 frozen turkeys at Big Y World Class Markets.

Volunteers at the Salvation Army facility on Arnold Street said the turkey donations on Tuesday by Westfield State and the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base were just enough to give a turkey to each family that requested one.

"We had more than 300 qualified families on our list," said Gail Lagasse, director of the service center. "But donations were down this year. The Westfield State students really made a difference."

Westfield State students donate to Westfield Food Pantry

The Westfield State College chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology delivered 14 boxes of food to the Westfield Food Pantry on Tuesday, Nov. 20. The food was collected on campus during the Psi Chi's annual food drive.

"There were donation boxes in most of the buildings on campus," said Lynn Shelley, professor of psychology and chapter advisor. "On behalf of Psi Chi, I wish to thank all of the members of our college community who donated to the food drive."

The 12 Pains of Christmas!
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Songwriters can sharpen skills during Westfield State's winter session

Songwriters, or those who want to be, can sharpen their skills and gain inside information on the music business in a Westfield State College winter session class, Songwriting.

Songwriters interested in any genre of music can improve their writing and playing skills by collaborating with other musicians and writers under the guidance of Professor Gregg Neikirk, who has 25 years of experience in songwriting. Contacts in Nashville and in other major markets can be an avenue for students to pursue publication of the songs they write or revise in this class.

"If you don't play an instrument, don't fret—this course employs expert musicians who are eager to help you choose a melodic accompaniment for your lyrics. And if you do, bring it to class with you," Neikirk said.

The course will examine ideas for writing lyrics and how to think about musical patterns that will support them.

"We discuss everything from the philosophy of songwriting — for example: Are songs merely poems put to music? Or is poem a song without music? — to power chord progressions and how to develop rhymes," he said.

The class runs from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday Jan. 2 -4, 7-11 and 14-15 in Bates Hall.

For more information or to register, contact the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education at 413-594-1268. For more details on the class, call Neikirk at 572-5331.

A mental illness that may originate before birth

SHANKAR VEDANTAM
THE WASHINGTON POST

Over the past several decades, a steady stream of studies has documented that people born in winter and spring have an increased risk for schizophrenia, a serious mental illness characterized by disordered thinking, hallucinations and other psychotic symptoms.

Explanations for the increased risk have ranged from the astrological — different signs of the zodiac have been associated with various mental problems — to accounts that suggested the risk came from seasonal variations in sunlight.

In recent months and years, scientists have developed a different explanation: Studies show the increased risk of schizophrenia appears linked to maternal infections during the first and second trimesters of pregnancy — especially flu infections. Since the flu peaks in the fall, this might explain why babies born in the winter and spring have the higher risk.

The research is both intriguing and troubling. For one thing, it suggests that the origins of diseases such as schizophrenia might start as early as the womb. Indeed, symptoms of schizophrenia, which typically emerge in late adolescence or early adulthood and affects about 1 percent of the population, may only be the very last stage in a long process.

"Often what we see in the form of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and even some of the more neurological disorders like Alzheimer's disease (is) the end stage where people show symptoms," said Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health. "The best model is in Parkinson's disease: You don't show the symptoms until you have lost 80 percent of the neurons in the substantia nigra," an area of the brain that helps produce the neurotransmitter dopamine.

But if research into the links between early maternal infections and schizophrenia might one day provide researchers with clues about how to attack the disease before symptoms become apparent, it also raises difficult public health conundrums.

That's because the newest studies suggest the culprit may not be infections such as the flu per se, but pregnant mothers' immune reactions to such infections. Current guidelines recommend that pregnant women get a flu shot — and the point of the flu vaccine is to set off an immune reaction. If maternal antibodies increase the risk for schizophrenia, might protecting mom and baby from the flu raise the risk the child could get schizophrenia years later?

Research into the links between maternal flu and schizophrenia is still considered preliminary, which makes any policy conclusions premature, but scientists studying the connection are starting to worry. National guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that pregnant women get flu shots.

"Obviously, the safe thing to do is to go with the experts, and the experts are the CDC," said Paul Patterson, a professor of biology at the California Institute of Technology and one of the leading researchers into the link between maternal infections and schizophrenia. "However, if it was my wife, I would not (want) her vaccinated."

Patterson said he would try to protect a pregnant family member from the flu by suggesting she keep away from infected people and by enforcing a regimen of regular hand-washing among all family members.

However, he conceded that such measures might not be as effective as flu shots and that women who get the flu because they don't get a flu shot might not only put their future children at increased risk for schizophrenia, but also incur numerous other risks from the illness. Careful prevention techniques, moreover, are unlikely to help pregnant women who have toddlers, because small children tend to bring home endless streams of viral infections.

Insel praised Patterson's research but warned against rushing to revise flu shot recommendations.

"It raises a question but does not provide an answer," Insel said of the newest research. "We are not ready to jump from any of this to the policy dimension."

Hints about the schizophrenia-winter connection have been around for decades.

Epidemiologists have found that children of women who were pregnant during widespread flu epidemics seemed to have higher risk for schizophrenia. But critics have said there's insufficient evidence to assert a causative relationship because such studies did not confirm that the pregnant women had the flu.

Besides, other factors seemed to trigger the same effect: One wartime study found that pregnant women whose husbands died were more likely to have children who later developed schizophrenia.

A research breakthrough came in 2004 when Alan Brown, a psychiatrist at Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, got access to data from a study that collected blood samples between 1959 and 1966 from thousands of pregnant women at different stages of their pregnancy.

In an analysis that compared blood samples from the mothers of 64 children who went on to develop schizophrenia with blood samples of similar mothers whose offspring did not, Brown and his colleagues showed that women who had higher levels of influenza antibodies in their first or second trimester had offspring who were three to seven times more likely to develop schizophrenia.

Continued on page 3

Editor's Desk



In need of:
WEB SAVVY GUY OR GAL

I am looking to start an online edition of The Voice. The staff is looking for anyone who would be willing to help create/construct a newspaper website for us! You can get the cool title of "Online Editor" AND it would look amazing on resumes! Any help would be greatly appreciated!! E-mail TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu if interested :)

P.S. Thank you to my wonderful Comm Ethics class for their opinion on "the pictures." :)

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Almost Christmas break!!



End of the semester work

Mental illness - Continued from page 2

Brown calculated that if the women had not had the flu during pregnancy, 14 percent of the schizophrenia cases could have been prevented, an effect he calls potentially enormous for a disease believed to have several complex genetic and environmental factors.

Brown and other researchers also began seeking evidence that mothers who contracted other infections during pregnancy also had children who were at increased risk of schizophrenia; they also began looking for common pathways between the infections. One appeared to be an immune system protein, or cytokine, called interleukin-6: cytokines are activated not only through infections but also through stress.

Brown, Insel and Patterson all hasten to point out that, while schizophrenia is a relatively rare disease, as many as 10 percent of women get the flu while they are pregnant, and many pregnant women contract other infections and experience stress. This suggests that the vast majority of women who have their immune systems triggered during pregnancy will not have children who develop schizophrenia.

Insel also cites evidence that genetics may play a more dominant role than the environment in determining who gets schizophrenia: Studies of identical twins show that when one child develops schizophrenia, the other has a 50 percent chance of developing the disorder, too.

However, some of the increased risk among identical twins may be a result of maternal infections during pregnancy — and not genetics, Patterson argues. That's because those identical twins who share a common placenta — and who are, therefore, more likely to receive the same maternal cytokines — seem to have a higher risk of schizophrenia than identical twins who do not share a common placenta.

(While the science assigns no blame to mothers for these risks, the long history of blaming parents for the disorder suggests it might be useful to note that people's immune systems are beyond their control, and pregnant women cannot be held responsible for the flu-schizophrenia link.)

Fuller Torrey, a Washington psychiatrist with a long interest in schizophrenia, said the link between early maternal infections and schizophrenia is strong. He believes that infections and immune reactions in young children, not just maternal infections during fetal life, might be involved in elevating the risk for schizophrenia.

Animal research conducted by Caltech's Patterson along with William Carpenter and James Koenig at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center at the University of Maryland appears to support the theories of Brown and others.

Pregnant rodents given flu infections seem more likely to have offspring that show some of the behavioral symptoms of schizophrenia, such as social withdrawal and anxiety. When the effect of maternal antibodies is blocked, the offspring do not go on to develop such symptoms.

Patterson said he also hoped to see new epidemiological studies that specifically looked at whether pregnant women given flu shots had offspring with a higher risk of schizophrenia than pregnant women who did not receive flu shots.

"It is true that vaccinations do not cause the same degree of immune activation as an infection," he said. "But if you are recommending universal vaccinations for every woman who is pregnant, you are asking for increased risk for schizophrenia because some women are going to have a very strong reaction."

What should pregnant women do until useful policy conclusions can be drawn?

Experts recommend sticking to official public health guidelines on the flu shot, and trying to limit infections and stress during pregnancy.

"I was raised in the Midwest, so I believe the best motto is, 'Everything in moderation,'" Koenig said. "Keep your life as well balanced as possible."



World AIDS Day
December 1, 2007

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988. World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic.



How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

What is "Networking"?
By: Jill Rushbrook

Networking is the process of connecting with people who can help you explore your career/professional/personal goals.

So who is in your "network"? We are all a part of a network of people. Each person has an inner circle of contacts (established connections) and an outer circle of contacts (yet-to-be established connections).

Your inner circle of contacts:
(people you already are in contact with)

- Friends, family, supervisors, professors, alumni, co-workers, neighbors, former employers, acquaintances, etc.

Your outer circle of contacts:
(people you are referred to by those in your "inner circle")

- People your contacts think will be relevant resources for you
- Professionals working in your field of interest
- People who work for organizations that interest you

Why network?

- Often, people may view networking as using people or being a nuisance, BUT when you ask someone for advice, you are paying him or her a compliment. As a result, that person will be more willing to help you.
- Remember: Most people love to talk about what they do and like helping others.
- Many organizations look first at people they know and people who come recommended by people they know when it comes time to hire someone.
- Employers would MUCH rather hire someone that has been recommended to them as opposed to someone with whom they are unacquainted.
- The more you know about an industry and company, the better your chances are of landing a job—and the more people you've networked with, the more you'll know about a particular company or field.
- Basically, networking allows you to get the "inside-edge" of a company that you are interested in.

Networking offers you:

- The value of a face-to-face encounter.
- The opportunity to save time during the job search. Networking gives you an earlier chance at an opportunity, usually before or at the time of the job posting.
- A potential opportunity to help shape the job description since the employer is aware of your interests and skills.

Common reasons to network are:

- To gain information or advice about a career field, industry, or organization
- To learn about possible job opportunities
- To connect with people who are doing the things you want to do
- To tell people about you, your interests, skills, and current goals
- To offer to be a resource to others; offer services or skills

How to network:

- Networking should start with the people you already know (your "inner circle").
- These people may not necessarily be the best source of jobs, but they can give you advice, comment on how you present yourself, and give you feedback about your strengths and skills.
- The people you already know are bound to have connections of their own who could turn out to be valuable resources for your professional and personal growth.
- A telephone call, casual meeting, or email is a good way to begin a conversation with someone in your "inner circle" to:
  - o Explain your career goals
  - o Share your interests/skills
  - o Ask for referrals/advice
  - o Express gratitude and appreciation for their friendship/relationship
- An approach letter is a more appropriate means of contacting anyone in your "outer circle" of contacts. This can be done via email or mail.
  - o Start off by stating who referred you (establishing a connection) and why you are specifically interested in speaking with this contact.
  - o Request a meeting or state when you will follow up with a phone call
  - o If you are interested in a job opportunity, highlight skills, interests, and information about what you have to offer and you may want to include a resume.
- In an "Informational Interview", you can:
  - o Interview a professional in your field to gain insight into the duties of the job, skills needed, current issues, challenges, rewards, etc.
  - o Learn more about what steps to take in your career path
  - o Remember to obtain a business card from the person you are interviewing so that you can write a thank you letter and have his or her contact information for future reference.

Other ways to network :

- Joining a professional association at a student rate is also an excellent way to access resources, network with professionals, and better understand current issues/trends within the profession. Often, these associations have conferences, forums, or possibly online chats that are ideal settings for networking opportunities.
- Attending job fairs can provide you with the opportunity to present yourself professionally, distribute your resume, network with potential employers, find out what employers are looking for, and research the area's hiring companies.

REMEMBER - THANK YOU LETTERS:

- Never underestimate the power of a simple thank you. If you have been given the opportunity to have an interview, have received assistance from someone, or have obtained referrals, DON'T forget to write a thank you note.
- A hand-written thank you is always appropriate for any contact that you make. Email can be useful if you want the contact to get your "thank you" right away. The thank you letter will remind the person of your visit/encounter and is a graceful gesture showing interpersonal skills and polite manner. Additionally, a thank you can convey your continued interest in the field or company.

For ore information about networking, contact the Career center at 413 572-5206
Jill Rushbrook
Career Counselor/Alumni Career Services

Letter to the Editor

Ms. Pappas, you may not get much correspondence with parents, but I am avid reader of The Voice – well, the few times a year I get to campus for vacation pick-up or care package delivery, etc.. Your editors desk always ask for suggestions or comments, so here comes three.

1. How long before the VOICE becomes web savvy and available online for all to read? It would be a nice option to follow campus news more often and a feather in the cap of the editor that is able to implement it.

2. It is a student paper about student issues, but what about a parents online experience piece, (every one in a while) would that be so bad? A Q& A, or feedback offering?

3. The Career Busters article was sage advice from Maureen McCarthy at the career center. It is certainly food for thought worthy of repeating in future articles or getting it included into freshman orientation packets.

Ms. Pappas,
DC Food service - No food service will ever replace home cooked meals but... is this the best they can do? I have asked for a satisfaction survey to be conducted. I don't know if this has been done in your tenure at school but customer satisfaction surveys lead to changes or identifying just individual dissatisfaction. Therefore, I wonder if you can give some encouragement for this survey. If WSC is what it eats, I'm not getting such good feedback on this issue. My student concerns were dismissed by the SGA and I am not pleased. If they are there to do a function they should being doing it with earnest. One voice isn't as strong as two, so in seeking a resolution I'm sharing my voice with you.
Regards,
Mr. Murray

Confronting the epidemic of rape in an African conflict zone

Michael Kleinman
Special to The Baltimore Sun

The full scope of the violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo is hard to fathom. Gang rapes by militias and government soldiers have been detailed in news reports. A United Nations official reported this year that 27,000 cases of sexual violence were reported in 2005 and 2006 in a single province, South Kivu.

Yet what has been missing in the recent media coverage is any sense of how to end -- or even address -- the horrific violence that has racked the DRC and other countries in the Great Lakes region of central Africa.

The International Violence Against Women Act, introduced recently by U.S. Sens. Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Richard G. Lugar, offers a historic opportunity to help people facing the daily threat of violence in the DRC and other countries. This landmark legislation calls for a comprehensive U.S. approach to combat violence against women and girls by increasing resources focused on the issue. It establishes a focus on reducing violence against women and girls as formal U.S. policy, and it integrates programs to prevent and respond to such violence across other U.S. foreign assistance programs.

The increased resources and added focus on the problem of sexual violence are especially needed in the DRC, where rape has reached such epidemic proportions that some people regard it as a normal aspect of life. Recent research by CARE in the eastern part of the country found that 70 percent of survivors of sexual violence know other women who have undergone similar experiences and that 80 percent of them had been gang raped.

As with any parade of horrors, it's easier to see the problem in the abstract, a question of faceless numbers. Too often, we forget the real people who live with this fear and who face the devastating consequences of this violence.

My own sense of detachment disappeared one morning a year ago, in a sweltering hut in a small, impoverished village in eastern Congo. I listened as a small group of women dressed in their Sunday best described how being raped had changed their lives. Medical services were completely lacking, and there was no support available to help them address the shame and the ostracism they experienced within their families and communities. One woman tearfully described how she'd been forced from her home by her husband, unable to see her children.

The consequences of violence against women and girls go far beyond the survivors themselves: they affect entire communities. In places like eastern Congo, it is women who help families and communities survive, in part by producing an estimated 80 percent of household food. When these women are shunned and driven out of their communities, it contributes to a cycle of poverty and despair.

The government of the DRC has limited ability to meet the basic needs of its citizens -- let alone help survivors of rape. Humanitarian agencies are doing all they can to fill the vacuum, supporting medical clinics and working with communities to help prevent such violence. For instance, CARE recently started a program to work with village-based women's associations to help build and strengthen their skills to the point where they can advocate directly to local leaders, urging them to take stronger steps to address rape in their communities.

This work needs to be drastically scaled up, however, to have an effect. This kind of local change will require consistent international attention and assistance from donors.

There's a long way to go, but ensuring that the International Violence Against Women Act passes is a positive step. It's worth all our efforts if, at some point in the not-too-distant future, a woman in eastern Congo can bury her shame and return home, her head held high.

Holiday cheer (Lack of...)

Erica Forish
Voice Columnist

I do not appreciate the Christmas season, and I probably never will. This is not to say that I never appreciated Christmas. As a child, I was a true believer in Santa Claus, innocent and naïve, having no reason to question his magical journey around the world in a single night. I looked forward to getting my picture taken on Santa's lap; I sang along with the constant rotation of Christmas carols on the radio; I looked forward to decorating sugar cookies with my mom, my grandmother and my cousin; I helped my parents decorate the tree with lights and garland and ornaments; I left out milk and cookies (and carrots for the reindeer) before going to bed on Christmas Eve; I understood the value of giving rather than receiving; I was a true believer of the Americanized version of the Christmas spirit.

And then I grew up and discovered all the lies I had been told, and I was heartbroken. The fantastical world of holiday magic completely fell apart. I no longer wanted anything to do with the traditional or the religious aspects of Christmas. I had no interest in celebrating a holiday fueled by lies and by greed. I quickly learned, however, the difficulty of escaping holiday festivities. Eventually, someone – perhaps a sibling or a cousin or a grandparent – will pester you long enough so that you crack and give in to the holiday cheer, making Christmas even worse because now you are forced to participate in its traditions.

Call me Scrooge all you like, but realize that I do have my reasons for hating Christmas and so do many others. And my reasons start weeks before the Christmas holiday is even upon us. By Nov. 1 – sometimes even earlier – Christmas décor dominates the malls and department stores.

You cannot go anywhere without hearing "Jingle Bells" or "White Christmas" for the hundredth time that week.

Christmas carols continue to play well into January, only adding insult to injury.

Store displays are littered with fake snow, garlands, lights, ornaments, wreaths, Santa mannequins, reindeer and mistletoe.

The Styrofoam cups at Dunkin Donuts are adorned with Christmas trees; Coca-Cola cans are decorated with pictures of Santa Claus; and the frosting inside Oreos is red instead of white.

People seem to think that the Christmas season is an excuse to dress like an idiot. Claiming that their apparel is "festive," people go out in public wearing reindeer antlers and Santa hats.

You begin to think you're crazy because you hear bells everywhere, but in reality it's just a Salvation Army collector, another volunteer begging for your spare change every time you enter or exit a store.

And although at first you may admire the beauty of Christmas light displays, you eventually come across a yard that looks like some sort of demented circus threw up on the front lawn, and Santa was its ringleader.

Did you know...?

- the average American spends $907 on Christmas gifts each year
- people spend an average of $65 per gift
- Americans purchase $63.6 billion worth of presents with their credit card(s)
- December accounts for 14 percent of all department stores' yearly sale totals
- 20 percent of Americans finish their holiday shopping on Christmas Eve
- 28 percent of Americans admit to re-gifting
- One in 10 toys are broken by New Year's Eve
- 7 percent of mall Santas have a criminal record



Photo courtesy of www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15852845/

Continued on page 5

Holiday Cheer - Continued from page 4

You sit on the couch and turn on the television in hopes that it'll take your mind off of Christmas, and you begin to surf the channels. Commercial with Santa. Commercial with Santa. Commercial with elves and Santa. Charlie Brown's Christmas. Misfit toys. Frosty the Snowman. Commercial with Santa. Commercial with reindeer. Buy this toy. Buy this toy, too. The Grinch that Stole Christmas (the cartoon version). The Grinch that Stole Christmas (Jim Carry version). Holiday episode rerun. Holiday episode rerun. Commercial with Santa. Buy more toys. Every child must have this toy.



Illustration by Kellie Veiga

THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

Christmas is everywhere. It has penetrated every element of our consumer-driven society. You cannot run; you cannot hide; you cannot escape; you are forever doomed to be a prisoner of the Christmas season.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays



KAYLA CORNOYER
VOICE COLUMNIST

Now, I know you may be thinking it's a bit early for the Happy Holiday greeting, as was I on Friday when I began hearing Holiday music on the radio.

I mean, it is just after Thanksgiving. But the holiday music started long before Turkey Day and shouldn't the holidays go in order? I mean, you wouldn't celebrate Valentine's Day before New Years.

But the truth of the matter is that the holidays are sneaking up on all of us. We are all starting to wrap up projects for the end of the semester and we are all starting to think about finals.

Last Sunday night, I attended a charity auction at the Holyoke Mall. The proceeds went to the Ronald McDonald House. There were sales galore and an auction full of different prizes. The turn out was great and I am sure the approaching holiday season helped the outcome.

The sales were like those of "Black Friday" but without the ridiculous crowds of angry shoppers. Who could ask for anything more? Not only that but most people get more giving around this time of year so it becomes the perfect time for any charity.

The holidays tend to bring out the good in pretty much every one, except the typical Scrooge. There is a good vibe between Thanksgiving and Christmas that doesn't happen any other time of year. People are shopping for each other, decorating their houses and sitting by their fires with hot chocolate. Everyone is in a generally giddy mood.

At first I was torn when I heard the holiday music on stations like KISS 95.7. I like to celebrate the holidays in order, you know? It seems to keep order in the chaos of the world. But it seems that everyone else is pushing the holiday festivities earlier and earlier. But the more I think about it, the more I am changing my mind.

When I think about the troubles of the world and the joyful times of the upcoming season, I would rather the happy times.

In my opinion, if all it takes to bring happiness to the world is a little bit of holiday music and bright lights, then so be it. In that case, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

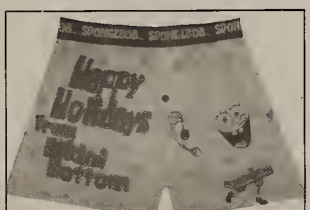


Photo courtesy of www.wehundies.com/images/mk7896.jpg

Is he my dad...or a spy?

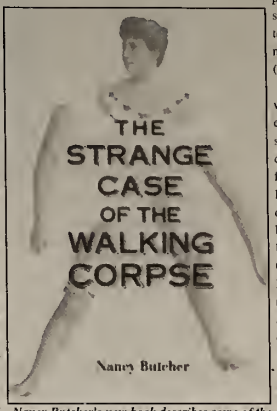


ERIN E. ETHIER
PSYCHOLOGY COLUMNIST

Have you ever thought that your family members or friends were robots or identical imposters sent by the FBI? Did you ever think that your body was really made up of robotic parts and that you really don't bleed like all humans do? These are common thoughts among people with Cotard or Capgras Disorders.

With Cotard Disorder, people believe that on the inside they are "already dead" (Psychology Today). In one case, a man was rushed to the hospital because of a stab wound. Later, doctors found ou that the man had deliberately stabbed himself to prove to his family that he wouldn't bleed, since he was already dead. Obviously he was proven wrong.

Capgras Disorder is somewhat different than Cotard, but they relate in many ways. A person with Capgras Disorder believes that the people closest to them are identical imposters sent by the FBI. People with this disorder have gone through great measures to prove that their beliefs are true. In 1989, before this disorder was documented, a psychiatric patient decapitated his stepfather "expecting to find batteries and microfilm in his head" (Psychology Today).



Nancy Butcher's new book describes some of the more strange and rare diseases in humans. unreal world.

Photo courtesy of www.cnn.com/.../02/20/strange.cases/index.html

Many patients with either disorder experience the same symptoms such as depression or delusions from schizophrenia. Either of these disorders can also be caused by brain damage. Usually, people with Cotard or Capgras Disorder accept that their family members are "imposters" and continue to live day to day. However, few have taken further measures to prove that they are living in an

STAND for Darfur

LAURA MANGINI
SPECIAL TO THE VOICE

How many people are you Facebook or MySpace friends with? How would you feel if they all died? Now imagine if all your friends were murdered, plus the entire Westfield campus, and your entire hometown? That probably still doesn't even come close to the number of deatbs that have cumulated so far in Africa. The Darfur genocide has already claimed at least 400,000 lives. We all learned about the Holocaust at some point in our lives, whether it was in high school or in a college course. And most of us sat there wondering how people could just sit back and pretend like nothing was going on. Why wasn't anyone helping? Well guess what, it's happening again. The Darfur genocide started almost five years ago in the Spring of 2003. How many of you know where Darfur even is? It's located in Africa, more specifically in Western Sudan. Here's another question for you: how many of you out there would have even known genocide was occurring if it wasn't for movies like Hotel Rwanda? I know I wouldn't have known much about any of it. But it is happening and innocent people are being raped, tortured and killed simply because they were born to the wrong tribe.

Are we, as a college community, going to just sit back and continue pretending that we don't know what is happening? Are we, as the next generation, going to tell our fellow human beings that we don't have the time to help them, that we don't really care what is happening? Are we going to act as if everything is ok as long as the Patriots go 16-0, as long as Grey's Anatomy and The Hills are on every week with new episodes? No. It is time to stand up and take action, instead of waiting for others to make the first move. We cannot sit around and wait for people in office to do anything; they are too busy trying to save face in Iraq. We must be the ones who try and make a difference. Whether it be donating time or money, or simply just joining the chapter, every little bit helps. How can we face ourselves knowing that this massacre is going on across the Atlantic, and we can't even be bothered to join a group? If you realize that it is time to stop standing by and time to stand up, here is some more information:



Photo courtesy of journals.democratic-underground.com/Solly%20Mack

Currently, I am trying to start a STAND chapter at WSC. This is a student anti-genocide coalition that is found nationwide. There are over 200 chapters located across the country. If you would like to help or join the chapter, you can e-mail me at lmangini4522@wsc.ma.edu.

If you would just like to join the cause, visit www.standnow.org. This website lists all the upcoming events and has updated information on the crisis in Darfur.

Dec. 5th, is DarfurFast day. All that we ask is that you give up one thing for one day. One small little item. We ask you to donate that $2 or $3 dollars to the campaign so we can help the civilians of Darfur buy firewood. Many children and women are at great risk as they go search for dry wood to make fires. So maybe you suck it up and get hot chocolate from the DC instead of Dunkin's for one day. Isn't it worth it, knowing that you possibly saved a life?

The Voice office ghost



Eryn Carter

Layout Editor

To the ghost in the Voice Office:

Hi. I'm sure you know me. Just as you know Molly and Jenn, the other two editors who practically live in the office. As much as we really don't like you being here, we have just learned to deal with it. But it's been nearly a full semester and I'm pretty sure it's time for us to know who you are.

Here's the deal. The candy in the orange Halloween bowl was NOT for your taking. I'm pretty sure you can't even eat it, being a ghost and all, but the empty wrappers in the bowl aren't cool. You could have at least thrown them out so we didn't know.

The TV is not for you use and leisure. It's for OUR connection to the outside world. Stop touching it and moving it. It's aimed at OUR desks so we can see OUR TV. The more you move it, the more pissed off we get.

The couch and chairs are another issue entirely. Personally, I wouldn't want to sit or sleep on that couch but hey, you're a ghost. I guess you don't care about diseases. And the chairs, well, I guess you can use them as long as you put them back the way they were so we don't notice.

Now, if you're going to drink AMP in here… at least get rid of the can. I see you cleaned up the puddle that I'm assuming should be on the floor, which would account for the near empty roll of paper towels on the table by the door. So at least that was nice of you.

And the clocks… well thanks for setting them the right time… but it's kind of creepy to look up and see them at all the same time now. It was cozy the way it was before. And the clock that should be under 'Courtney', you should probably bring back. Even if it doesn't work. The 'Davis' clock doesn't work but we still love it. Don't touch things!

The moon carpet needs to be returned ASAP. It's Molly's and she misses it. Besides, it was the only thing that made this room somewhat cozy. Why would you need a girly carpet anyways? Clearly by the things I previously stated, you're a guy.

Oh, and please take your catalogs out of here. We're not interested… and it's taken up room in our office.

So here's the deal. Stop touching our crap. Or if you're going to use it, at least let us meet you… and maybe we can finally put an end to wondering whom the ghost of the Voice office is.

Yours truly,
Eryn Carter

JUNIOR YEAR CAREER STRATEGIES

Attention, Juniors! It's your third year of college flying by? Get experience through COOP, internship and summer jobs! Prioritize your interests and draft your job search or graduate school strategy. Here are some strategies to keep you on track with your career goals:

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Select electives that enhance your learning and career goals
- Just as high school junior year grades were critical to the college admissions process, your THIRD YEAR is critical in your preparation for life after WSC. Block time in your calendar on a regular basis to conduct career research, hone your job search skills, and attend career-related events
- Get career information while you pursue NETWORKING (talking with people including employers and alumni) at career-related fairs, forums and presentations
- Get workplace EXPERIENCE! Talk to prospective employers about possible jobs and/or internships. Contact alumni to discuss career, job, and internship options. Use WSC resources to identify specific possibilities and deadlines. Participate in the Cooperative Education Program or an internship to get hands-on experience
- Keep track of your professional contacts. Find a place to store business cards, notes about conversations, and possible follow-up steps
- Visit WSC's Career Services' website regularly for career-help information and meet with Career Services to discuss potential internship sites.

FALL SEMESTER:

- Assume a leadership role in extra-curricular activities that support your future goals.
- Get experience with web-based job/internship services: post your resume on On-I Link (https://www.myinterface.com/wcsfield/student), Career Services online job database.
- Arrange for a mock interview to practice and improve your interview skills
- Shop for business suits so you can dress for success in your interviews

SPRING SEMESTER:

- Refine your resume, ask Career Services for advice and critique. Use wsc.optimalresume.com to create your resume and have a critiqued by a career counselor. Consider developing a portfolio to support your resume/interview participation
- Prioritize your career field choices. Read WSC books and handouts on job search techniques. Draft a job search or graduate school strategy; targeting and researching potential employers/schools. Review it with a WSC counselor. Continually refine your strategy as more information becomes available

SUMMER AFTER THIRD YEAR:

- Use this time to strategically beef up your resume! Volunteer, intern, or work at a job related to your career or job targets. Make resume revisions based on your goals and summer experience.
- Review the checklist for fourth year and find ways to get a head start. (For example, write graduate school personal statements or conduct industry or company research.) Fourth year is a very busy time and anything you can do prior to returning in the fall will make your fourth year a little less stressful!

Lethal injection isn't as humane as it appears

Eric Berger
Special to the Los Angeles Times

For years, the conventional wisdom has been that lethal injection is a humane means of execution. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

In one case, which the Los Angeles Times recently reported on, the federal government is carrying out executions with the assistance of a doctor who was barred from participating in Missouri's lethal-injection procedure. In 2006, a federal court in Kansas City, Mo., found that Alan R. Doerhoff's dyslexia interfered with his ability to administer the drugs correctly -- making him the only doctor in the United States who has been barred by a federal court from participating in lethal-injection executions. Despite this finding and his public reprimand for failing to disclose more than 20 malpractice lawsuits against him, Doerhoff continues to assist with federal executions in Indiana.

Thirty-seven states have selected potentially excruciating chemicals, and many have delegated administration of those drugs to unfit personnel. As a result, it is virtually certain that inmates have needlessly suffered painful deaths and that more will continue to do so -- unless states and the federal government substantially revise their methods.

In January , the Supreme Court will hear arguments in Baze v . Rees, a case that will set the standard for determining whether the pain and suffering inflicted during lethal injection violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Governments thus might be required to take greater care in administering lethal injections.

The prevailing method of lethal injection employs three drugs that simultaneously create a risk of terrific pain and conceal that pain from all observers. The first chemical is a volatile, difficult-to-administer anesthetic. The second paralyzes all the inmate's muscles, including his diaphragm. The third burns intensely as it courses through the veins toward the heart, where it ioduces cardiac arrest. Insufficiently anesthetized inmates thus lie paralyzed while experiencing conscious suffocation and searing pain before death.

Execution by lethal injection need not be so inherently painful. Experts agree that other drugs could cause death without the risk of also causing undue suffering. Because the states have selected drugs that are so sensitive to error, however, it is imperative that they employ the right people to administer them. But numerous states employ people who are manifestly unfit.

States try to conceal their personnel's qualifications, but some details have begun to emerge. In one California case, an execution team leader had sole control over the addictive anesthetic, even though he had been disciplined for bringing illegal narcotics into the prison. Other members of that same team allegedly were never trained in the procedures and became so confused when preparing the anesthetic that they might have administered one-tenth of the intended dose. In a separate incident, massive quantities of the anesthetic disappeared, and no one knows how much was actually administered to inmates.

Unsurprisingly, courts presented with such evidence in California and other states have begun to find that unqualified personnel's participation in executions creates a significant risk of excruciating pain.

If they fail to employ people capable of, among other things, correctly mixing the drugs and setting the intravenous lines, states are inviting problems. The paralyzing drug usually hides the execution team's mistakes, but occasionally the errors are in plain, gruesome view. Last year in Florida, for instance, Angel Diaz writhed on the gurney, gasping for breath for more than half an hour before death. An autopsy revealed that his IV lines had been improperly set.

It is disturbing that states not only use needlessly painful chemicals but that some also employ unqualified people to administer them. What is intolerable, though, is for states to insist on retaining those same chemicals and personnel once they have been alerted to the significant risk of profound suffering. Numerous states have done exactly this -- and then sought to conceal all information about their procedures.

Regardless of one's views on the death penalty, carrying out executions is a solemn responsibility that should be approached with care and deliberation. Government's failure to act responsibly is a disservice not only to inmates but to the citizens who have made the death penalty state policy. As a federal judge in California explained, if the state wants to resume executions, its refusal to recognize its procedure's many problems is "self-defeating."

It is outrageous that states and the federal government have elected to carry out executions with dangerous, painful chemicals and then abdicated responsibility for the procedures to untrained, unqualified personnel. Government owes its citizens a transparent, careful reconsideration of this deeply flawed procedure that, as currently constituted, is bound to fail.

Penalties for crack: Sensible reduction of jail Time for drug offenders should be made retroactive

The Washington Post

This month, a measure of rationality was injected into federal sentencing guidelines when more lenient penalties for crack cocaine became the law of the land. The new guidelines will affect defendants convicted in the future, but they also should be made retroactive. That would bring some measure of equity to thousands of offenders — roughly 85 percent of them African American men — already serving unjustifiably long prison terms.

In May, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, which has the authority to craft sentencing guidelines for federal crimes, sent to Congress a proposal that would reduce the penalties for crack offenses. For example, a first-time offender caught with five grams of crack previously faced a prison term of up to 78 months; under the new sentencing scheme, he faces a maximum of 63 months. The commission had forwarded such recommendations several times before, only to have them vetoed by Congress. This time, to lawmakers' credit, the measure was allowed to stand.

The commission is considering whether to make the more lenient penalties retroactive — a power it can exercise without congressional approval. It estimates that 19,500 prisoners would be eligible for reduced sentences, including roughly 270 prisoners from the District of Columbia, 280 from Maryland and 1,400 from the Eastern District of Virginia, which includes Northern Virginia and Richmond.

The Justice Department and some in the law enforcement community worry that allowing early release for so many crack offenders would affect public safety. But the evidence suggests the worries are overblown. For starters, any reduced sentence must be approved by a federal judge, who may take into account a prisoner's criminal history and other factors. Federal prosecutors also have a voice in this process and can raise objections to a particular prisoner's sentence reduction. And not all of the 19,500 would be released at once. Different numbers of prisoners would become eligible for early release at different times over a period of three decades, according to a commission analysis. In D.C., 32 inmates would be eligible for immediate release if the reforms were made retroactive; in Maryland, the number would be 21; in the Eastern District, 48.

The lunacy in crack penalties will not be eliminated until lawmakers grapple with the mandatory minimum sentences now in place. These statutes mandate a five-year sentence for someone caught with five grams of crack; an offender would have to be caught with 500 grams of powder cocaine to trigger the same sentence. There are good arguments for why crack should carry tougher sentences than powder cocaine, including the fact that crack is ferociously addictive and destructive. But a 100-to-1 disparity is irrationoal. Lawmakers should act quickly on one of the several bills pending in Congress that would narrow that gap.

Zemeckis botches 'Beowful'

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: C

One of the oldest English stories ever written meets the newest technology Hollywood has to offer in Robert Zemeckis' newest computer generated saga, 'Beowulf'. Let me start by saying although this is an animated tale, it is not your typical Saturday morning fare. How this film secured a rating of PG-13 I still haven't figured out. It includes blood, gore, dismemberment, decapitation, horrifying imagery, sexual innuendo and nudity (both female and male).

That being said, those are the aspects of 'Beowulf' that make it entertaining, seeing as the story and dialogue certainly don't. The film revolves around the hero Beowulf, voiced by Ray Winstone, and his quest to rid the kingdom of Hrothgar (Anthony Hopkins) of its monster Grendal. In this telling Grendal's motivation has become his sensitive hearing. Essentially turning this omnipresent villain into the old man who lives downstairs and hits the ceiling with a broom when it's too noisy. The difference being instead of warning the village they are being loud, Grendal mercilessly slaughters dozens of its inhabitants. Later in the film, Beowulf fights Grendal's mother, a shape-shifter mostly played by (the mostly nude) Angelina Jolie, and finally a dragon.

Much has been made of the leap forward in technology taken by this film, including the motion capturing of its principal characters being done by the very actors who voice them. Impressive as the visuals are, it remains this motion that gives them away. Any freeze frame from the film looks damn near photorealistic. But watching a character's mouth move with its voice or seeing a horse gallop awkwardly eliminates most of the reality.

However, this unbelievable movement is what propels the action sequences, which are the one redeeming quality of this humdrum film. Beowulf flashing back to a battle he once had with sea monsters proves to be the most remarkable. The graphic violence is especially profound because it can go on much longer without a camera change. So many action films today cut so quickly during their fight sequences that you can't tell what is happening (see 'The Bourne Ultimatum'). In 'Beowulf' you know in detail what's going on whether you have the stomach for it or not.



Photo courtesy of chud.com/nextraim - ages/beowulfpostersword.jpg

Brendan Gleeson stands out as Beowulf's lieutenant and Winstone does a great job as the lead, but they don't have much to work with. The story is thin and the writing is for the most part surprisingly modernized. This isn't a bad thing because it is easier to listen to than the original text; the problem is that every once in a while there is a line of old English that doesn't mesh with the rest of what's on the page. In a few cases it left the audience literally laughing. One blunder of many made in this sometimes thrilling, often mediocre, testosterone-filled, graphical demonstration.

BOTTOM LINE: A step forward for computer generated technology and action sequences. A step back for the classic poem.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

WINTER KINGDOM

Tatyana Pyshnyak

The ground draped for royalty
Its crisp whiteness blinding
Majestic guards with their leafless limbs
Surrounding their kingdom in quiet recluse.

Aqua skies doming the ceiling of the grand hall
Crystal chandeliers perching upon their stately places
The frozen lake shimmering as dancers glide upon the ballroom floor
Enjoying the festivities of snowy winters.

Snowflakes like wood shavings fall gracefully
Covering the prominent steeples
Lights turn off and the candles of stars come alive
The winter weather twirls with abandon in the tempting privacy.

OneRepublic is all about second chances

August Brown
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES -- Ryan Tedder, the front man and founding member of the alt-rock band OneRepublic, is first and foremost a writer. He's penned tunes for such pop starlets as Natasha Bedingfield and Hilary Duff, cowrote with Jesse McCartney a U.K. chart-topping hit ("Bleeding Love") for Leona Lewis, and collaborated with rappers Lil Jon and Bubba Sparxxx. OneRepublic's high-profile cameo on Timbaland's album "Shock Value," a remix of the band's string-soaked lament "Apologize," which has been holding strong on the charts, is a testament to the versatility of Tedder's compositional skills.

In OneRepublic, Tedder uses this talent to fine-tune the traditional ingredients for pop stardom (giant choruses, suave faux bawks) and snip off anything or anyone that gets in the way. As modern rock becomes harder to sell in huge numbers, and professionalism is quickly overtaking spontaneity, the most popular new bands know that hits don't come accidentally. The potential of OneRepublic's debut album of meticulously earnest ballads, "Dreaming Out Loud" (released this week), will depend on 28-year-old Tedder's ability to single-handedly script his band's rise to fame.

As his story goes, OneRepublic was formed by high school buddies in a bucolic Colorado town and teased with early success upon moving to Los Angeles, only to be shattered by majorlabel politics. Then the band climbed the MySpace Unsigned charts and scored a liferaft record deal and remix from Tedder's longtime mentor Timbaland.

That story leaves out a few of the realities of how a talented, sharp-dressing and fiercely ambitious songwriter reinvents himself and his band -- a route involving a fundamentalist Christian education, the affirmation of 'N Sync's Lance Bass and booting a longtime friend from the band for crimes of fashion.

"Nowadays, everything I do is very calculated," Tedder said. "Back then, I'd see any opportunity and jump at it. But I swore to myself I wouldn't do anything but music, that until OneRepublic paid my bills, if a director showed me a scene for a movie and asked me to write a song for it, I'd say `Cut me a check and I'll do it.'"

Tedder seems to have covered all his bases: "Dreaming Out Loud" consistently hits the high points of '90s and '00s dorm-pop groups like Oasis and Coldplay with hints of modern soul and electronica gleaned from Tedder's years writing and producing with Timbaland. But are a photogenic quintet of bandmates, a crafty songwriting and production mind and a thick Rolodex of industry contacts enough to will a rock band into popularity in 2007?

Like most every event in the life of OneRepublic, the friendship between Tedder and co-founding guitarist Zach Filkins at Colorado Springs Christian School in 1996 began auspiciously. "Our senior year, Zach joined the soccer team," Tedder said. "In his first game he gets on the field and scores three goals, and we said `Yeah, we're going to keep him.'"

Tedder and Filkins parted ways after graduation, but they kept in touch while Tedder pursued a solo career and publishing deal in Nashville, Tenn. In 2000, he auditioned for an MTV-sponsored talent showcase sponsored by 'N Sync's Bass. He played an original song, which won him the competition, a production deal from Bass' Freelance Entertainment and a look from Interscope Records. Bass even extended an invitation for him to open an 'N Sync stadium tour. But soon everything took a nose dive -- the production deal with Freelance collapsed, Interscope never followed through and the tour didn't happen.

"Two weeks after that deal, I was waiting tables," Tedder said. "Timbaland happened to see the video though, and he signed me to a production deal. I learned a hell of a lot about writing, but I had nothing to show for it."

Tedder credits the Timbaland affiliation for fast-tracking his career, with the MTV showcase and solo contract being two of a few pockmarks. Numerous demos of Tedder singing tracks planned for other artists are floating around the Internet, but after OneRepublic's success, he's reluctant to point them out.

"It's like how David Duchovny popped up in a porno," Tedder said. "It's all stuff I didn't write for any one person, and then it ends up in the hands of the biggest cheeseball. When you're a writer, you live and die by every cut you get."

Similarly, Tedder's college education at Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma (he graduated as a PR/ advertising major in 2001) isn't usually included in the OneRepublic biography.

Continued on poge 9



MOVIE REVIEWS BY THE MOVIE DUDE



'Michael Clayton'

Grade: A

There is nothing negative I can say about this film. Tony Gilroy has written and directed a superb law thriller about a firm defending a big corporation (the fictional U-North) whose soil product has poisoned hundreds of plaintiffs. Unlike 'A Civil Action' or 'Erin Brockovich', this film looks at the case from the perspective of the defendants. We see what the corporation and the law firm are going through during this ordeal, unravels the mess that is the U-North case.

At the top he finds the scene stealing Tilda Swinton. Her performance as a U-North higher up is nothing short of spectacular and I would not be surprised to see her receive a Best Supporting Actress nomination. Clooney and Swinton's supporting ensemble are also fantastic and it's this caliber of acting matched with this sharp of a script that makes the film so special.

None of this would work if the film wasn't technically sound but, of course, it is. The

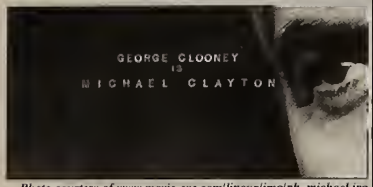


Photo courtesy of www.movie-eye.com/lineup/img/ph_michael.jpg

ominous piano music, the stark locales, the dull color palette. Everything works in this film's favor to create a captivating atmosphere.

The bottom line after all this gushing is: You should go see this film. That's all there is to it. Even if you are generally leery of law films, don't be. The story is not too convoluted but it's also not too shallow. It will hold your attention and make you hold your breath. I guarantee it.

instead of hearing witness after witness cry to our usual prosecuting protagonist.

Then who is our protagonist this time around? A 'fixer' by the name of Micbael Clayton who is played by the magnificent George Clooney. Clayton puts out fires for the firm but he can't seem to put out the fires burning in his personal life. This is what makes the title character so vexing, he can fix other people's problems but not his own.

The story really begins when the attorney assigned to the U-North case (Tom Wilkinson) goes off his medication and has a mental breakdown during a deposition. Clayton, being the fixer that he is, is assigned to bring in and calm down Wilkinson as well as handle the fall-out. What follows is an engrossing tale of deception and danger as Clayton

BOTTOM LINE: A fantastic legal thriller that should not be missed.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

'No Country' is a winner

Grade: A-

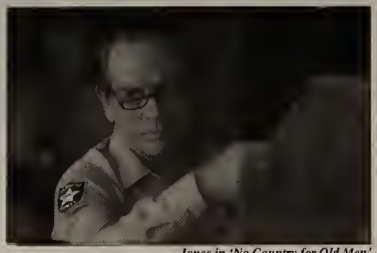
'No Country for Old Men' has a lot of hype to live up to. The ad campaign for it has been going strong for months, regardless of the fact it only went nationwide a few days ago. In the mean time it has been playing in small theaters and at film festivals, where its reception has been overwhelming. Critics and festival audiences all peg it as one of, if not, the best film of the year.

Hearing that same sentiment over and over again for months can affect someone's judgment of a movie before they even view it. Some welcome the praise and sit in the theater with giddy anticipation, fully prepared to agree it is the best movie ever. Others refuse to give in and are constantly looking for ways to refute the movie's accepted greatness.

If the trailer is solid and the film looks interesting to me, I generally join the first camp. Such was the case here. I was ecstatic to finally see this film and, for the most part, it did live up to my lofty expectations.

The Coen brothers ('Raising Arizona', 'Fargo', 'The Big Lebowski') wrote and directed this crime thriller about a man who comes across a drug deal tumed blood bath and finds a case full of two-million dollars. Josh Brolin plays Llewelyn Moss who makes this discovery and decides to keep the stash for himself. Unbeknownst to Moss, there is a homicidal maniac who is tracking down the money played by the truly evil Javier Bardem. All the while Tommy Lee Jones plays a local sheriff who is investigating the drug deal as well as the murders Bardem commits in the process of tracking down Brolin.

The story is interesting but it's also pretty basic. What makes the film is Bardem's per-



Jones in 'No Country for Old Men'
Photo courtesy of www.altfg.com/...Jcannes-2007-day-3/

formance as the brooding, unrelenting killer and the stylistic choices made by the Coens. Bardem is terrifying as the remorseless killing machine Anton Chigurh. He strikes so often that eventually the murders are not shown on screen anymore. They need only be insinuated. One scene shows us insight into his character when, for no apparent reason, he attempts to shoot a bird sitting on the guardrail of the road he is driving by. This is the type of sickness Bardem does an excellent job of selling to the audience.

There has never been any doubt that the Coen brothers are skilled filmmakers but No Country elevates them to a new level. There is no music to speak of throughout the entire film. This decision makes the films ten times more intense than if it used predictable thriller music. Instead, there is never any music to use as an indication of what is to come, all the audience can do is sit with bated breath and watch in horror. The levels of intensity this film reaches are truly amazing.

A note for the squeamish: most of the aforementioned intensity ends in some sort of violent act, often depicted using the utmost detail. If you have trouble watching violence on screen, seeing enormous amounts of blood or viewing realistically depicted wounds, stay away. Stay far, far away. That being said, everyone else should go see this film. It is a tremendous achievement and a new classic in the action thriller genre.

The only thing holding No Country back is its anticlimactic and abrupt finish. In time, perhaps I will appreciate it and the message of the film more. The moment it unfolded, however, I was not exactly pleased and I guarantee many of you will not be either. What the ending, and the film as a whole, does do is instill in me a necessity to see it again as soon as possible.

BOTTOM LINE: A phenomenal action thriller that (believe it or not) lives up to the hype.

For More By The Movie Dude, Visit http://web.mac.com/TheMovieDude

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All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

One Republic - Continued from page 7

"I eocooned myself with kids there who had the same pseudo-cynical outlook," Tedder said. "Both of my parents went there, and I grew up super Pentecostal. In Hollywood though, it's actually edgy, like `You went to NYU? Well, I went to ORU.'"

Tedder and Filkins regrouped in Colorado to write songs, including the band's first single, "Apologize," a swooning, R&B-inflected slow burn that amorous college kids and Timbaland could get behind. The pair moved to Los Angeles in 2003, where they rounded out the OneRepublic lineup and quickly signed with Columbia Records. There were still kinks to hammer out, like refining the live show and getting the band's look -- a disheveled mix of GQ and Abercrombie indie rocker -- exactly right.

"The label said that if you want this deal, you have to get rid of your drummer," Tedder said. "He looked like Travis Barker, he was rocking JNCO shorts and his playing style was very punk. He was the coolest guy ever, but he didn't fit."

The band soon settled on its current lineup, with drummer Eddie Fisher, guitarist Drew Brown and bassist-cellist Brent Kutzel. But its self-titled album's planned release date (June 6, 2006, or 6-6-06) didn't bode well. Sure enough, Columbia got cold feet and dropped the band.

But the band got an unexpected boost from MySpace. Yet again, labels came sniffing.

Timbaland saw an opportunity to add a rock band to the rap-heavy fold of his Universal imprint, Mosely Music Group, and debuted the band with his beat-heavy remix of "Apologize." Although the pairing of one of pop's great sonic innovators with such a straight-laced band as OneRepublic is unexpected; Timbaland saw them as kindred songwriters. "The band's chemistry is amazing, but what is so exceptional about them is how musical they are," Timbaland said. "I was just naturally drawn to `Apologize' and wanted to add my touch."

As the band releases "Dreaming Out Loud," the quintet is confident that sticking to its original guns -- indelible hooks, vague but enormous emotional crescendos and Tedder's flexibly soulful voice -- was the right decision. Songs such as "Stop and Stare" and "All We Are" fully realize this vision of neatly scripted pop.

"We're trying to connect to the largest demographic as humanly possible, and whatever format that is, we'll take it," Fisher said.

Tedder agreed that. "if I had to care about one thing, it'd be accessibility. What good is all the coverage in Filter Magazine if we have to break up because I can't stand another meal at Taco Bell?"

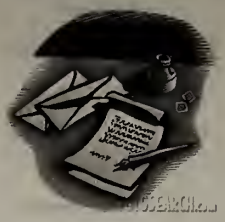
That candidness about OneRepublic's songwriting philosophy is the best and most trying thing about "Dreaming Out Loud." Pop tunes such as Britney Spears' "Toxie" or Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone" stick because they pair inventive arrangements with indelible choruses, while rock bands such as Hinder and Daughtry feed a seemingly bottomless appetite for dour neo-grunge.

OneRepublic expertly plucks ideas from nearly every successful alt-rock band of the last 15 years, and the songs are airtight guitar-pop compositions. But will this snag attention in a Top-40 climate where the best songs are often the strangest, and mainstream rock has surrendered to Nickelback ?

"Musically, we had enough versatility to swing the band any number of directions, as experimental or as pop as possible," Tedder said. "Lots of bands say they want credibility, but we actually want to make a living, too."

Rock music is at its best when the struggle between pop craftsmanship and scrappy volatility yields something unexpected yet immediate. It's too soon to tell if fans will find that Tedder's master plan balanced the two sides or missed them both.

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"I am happy being able to play roles with people my age because once you do something really mature there is no turning back."

Lindsay Lohan

Patriots win AFC East

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Reporter

The Patriots have done it once again. For the fifth year in a row, the New England Patriots have won the AFC East division title.

With the Buffalo Bills' loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday, the Patriots have officially made it to the playoffs. The Patriots also managed to stay undefeated on Sunday by beating the Philadelphia Eagles 31-28.



Photo courtesy of farm1.static.flickr.com/101/313686370_4686de5...

For a while the game looked like it could go either way, but in the end the Patriots dominated over the Eagles. Laurence Maroney's 4-yard touchdown run proved to be the important difference between success and defeat.

As long as the Patriots keep up their domination on the field, it looks like they will end up in the Superbowl once again. The combination of Tom Brady and Randy Moss has proved to be unbeatable this season, as well as Brady's ability to utilize multiple players on the offense to shake things up when needed.

The Patriots defense also deserves a hand in helping the Patriots achieve their fifth straight division title. Brady is lucky to have such an effective defense backing him up and keeping the opposing teams from scoring. Each defensive player is an integral part in the defense's success.

It seems like a good year to be a Boston sports fan. The Red Sox won the World Series, the Patriots are on their way to the Superbowl once again and the Celtics have been playing pretty good ball. All Boston sports fans need are for the Bruins to pick things up.

The Patriots play their next game against the Baltimore Ravens on Dec. 3 at 8:30 p.m. With Steve McNair hurt, it looks like Tom Brady will go against Kyle Boller to get one step closer to finishing the regular season undefeated. May the best team win, and hopefully that team is the Patriots.

WSC Athletics Press Briefing

Wednesday, December 5th



Ely Campus Center Lounge
11:30 AM

Students and Campus Community invited to attend

- College and local TV, radio, newspaper to cover each - Communication Dep't classes and/or other academic classes to attend and participate.
- College TV, Radio broadcast – Q&A following presentation

Presented through the Special Programs Office, Student Affairs Division

Magic pull rabbit out of their hat

Rob McGinnity
Sports Reporter

The Boston Celtics (8-1) dropped their first game of the season to the (9-2) Orlando Magic. The Celtics didn't have a trick up their sleeve as they lost 102-104. It was a hard fought game the whole way through.

The Celtics had their hands full with Orlando, a tough team with big man Dwight Howard, great scorer Rashard Lewis, and quick point guard Jameer Nelson. The Celtics got out to a slow start in the first quarter. They shot a dismal 38 percent from the floor whereas the Magic shot 55 percent. The Celtics got down right off the bat in part to their seven turnovers and one assist in the first quarter. This type of play continued throughout. There was no ball movement and a lot of one-on-one basketball.

This was a very physical game and also one that was heavily controlled by the officials. The Celtics got on the officials bad side and didn't get any help with calls. A big play came at the eight minute mark in the second quarter. Orlando Magic star player, Dwight Howard shoved the Celtics Brian Scalabrine after Howard was fouled. This contributed toward the tempers flying throughout the game. Kevin Garnett got a technical foul on the play whereas Howard had no repercussion for his actions.

The Celts couldn't find their rhythm in the first half. The players weren't flowing very well but guys took it upon themselves to make things happen. The Celtics hung tough to claw back into the game but it seemed like every time they did the Magic had an answer. The Celtics were very resilient and kept plugging away. Rajon Rondo looked good from the floor hitting open jumpers. He ended the game with 18 points on eight of nine shooting. Some say that shooting is a weak point of Rondos. He has been showing that it is no longer a weakness of his and has become a more all-around player. Rondo lead the Celtics in scoring at half time. It was so obvious that the officials were doing a poor job, that our favorite announcer Tommy Heinsohn made a comment on them. "That was a terrible call," yells Heinsohn referring a play Rajon Rondo got fouled. The referee waited until Rondo hit the floor to blow his whistle.

"Orlando had too much magic here for the Celtics," says Celtic announcer Mike Gorman, as the Celtics trailed 58-41 at half time without leading once. Kevin Garnett wasn't a factor in the first half and Ray Allen didn't make his first basket until half way through the second half. Paul Pierce tried to keep the Celtics in the game with his game high 28 points but to with no success. Dwight Howard was a beast in the first half with 24 points and six rebounds. Both teams started the second half without a miss on their first three possessions. Rondo and Pierce were the ones keeping the Celtics in this ball game. Pierce got two back to back three point plays with 3:33 in the third quarter to cut the Magic's lead to 10 points. The Celtics went into the forth quarter trailing 83-76 largely in part to a clutch play at the end of the third quarter. Pierce got the charge call and the Celts got the ball with 2:1 second left. They threw a 3/4 court pass to Eddie House. He caught the pass, shot it, and banked it off the backboard for a two-pointer. C's cut the lead to 4 with nine minutes left. They were once trailing by as much as 20.

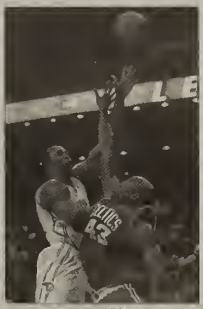


Photo courtesy of wwwimage.cbsnews.com/.../11118/image3519043.jpg

This game showed the grit of the Celtics as a team and how they play when their backs are against the wall. They didn't have the lead until late in the fourth quarter and kept scraping and fighting to get there. Untimely turnovers killed the Celtics. Momentum really never got established by the Celtics which made it hard for them to get back into the game. As they would get within a few points they would make a costly turnover. During this game every possession was crucial. Eddie House hit a HUGE three-pointer with 6:30 in the fourth. This shot brought the game to 87-85 in favor of Orlando. James Posey followed with another a three-pointer by to put Boston up by one with about six minutes to go. The Celtics bench was crucial in the later part of the game especially with most of their key players in foul trouble. Garnett was in foul trouble but came in at 5:28 with five fouls. Every key shot in the game was made by Orlando's Hedo Turkoglu. He was a big momentum killer and seemed to hit key shots at all the right times for the Magic. Heinsohn said of Turkoglu, "I want to pull his green card" because of his impact on the game and his ethnic background.

The fourth quarter was a roller coaster as the Celtics were down and then little by little fought their way back and then took the lead and went back down. Allen was having a tough shooting night (7-17) from the floor and (2-8) on three-pointers. Allen never lost confidence in his shot however. He hit a big 3 with around two minutes to go in the game. The Celtics were down by two with 1:38 in the game and Orlando's lead soon grew to a four. Tony Allen missed a huge lay up which could have been the difference maker. Ray Allen got fouled the next possession and made his two foul shots. He then got a steal and Boston had two good looks for three-pointers but missed them both. Garnett intentionally fouled Rashard Lewis and fouled out with 15 tics left. Lewis hit both free throws to make it a two possession game. Boston came out of the timeout and Allen hits a three which got them within one with 7.7 sec left. Pierce took a three with a chance to win the game and missed it. The Celtics were given there first loss in this game but it's early in their 82 game season. This game goes to show the Boston Celtics are human after all.

The 12 Pains of Christmas



The first thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me
Is finding a Christmas tree

The second thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Rigging up the lights
And finding a Christmas tree

The third thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Hangovers
Rigging up the lights
And finding a Christmas tree

The fourth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Sending Christmas cards
Hangovers
Rigging up the lights
And finding a Christmas tree

The fifth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Five months of bills!
Sending Christmas cards
Hangovers
Rigging up the lights
And finding a Christmas tree

The sixth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Facing my in-laws
Five months of bills!
Oh, I hate those Christmas cards!
Hangovers
Rigging up these lights!
And finding a Christmas tree

The seventh thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
The Salvation Army
Facing my in-laws
Five months of bills!
Sending Christmas cards
Oh, geez!
I'm tryin' to rig up these lights!
And finding a Christmas tree

The eighth thing at Christmas that such a pain to me:
I WANNA TRANSFORMER FOR CHRISTMAS!!!!
Charities,
And whataya mean "YOUR in-laws"?!?
Five months of bills!
Ach, making out these cards
Honey, get me a beer, huh?
What, we have no extension cords?!?
And finding a Christmas tree

The ninth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Finding parking spaces
DADDY, I WANT SOME CANDY!!!!
Donations!
Facing my in-laws Five months of bills!
Writing out those Christmas cards
Hangovers!
Now why the hell are they blinking?!?!?
And finding a Christmas tree

The tenth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me:
"Batteries Not Included"
No parking spaces
BUY ME SOMETHIN'!!!
Get a job, ya bum!
Facing my in-laws!
Five months of bills!
Yo-ho, sending Christmas cards
Oh, geez, look at this!
One light goes out, they ALL go out!!!
And finding a Christmas tree

The eleventh thing of Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Stale TV specials
"Batteries Not Included"
No parking spaces
DAD, I GOTTA GO TA BATHROOM!!
Charities!
She's a witch...I hate her!
Five months of bills!
Oh, I don't even KNOW half these people!
Oh, who's got the toilet paper, huh?
Get a flashlight...I blew a fuse!!
And finding a Christmas tree

The twelfth thing of Christmas that's such a pain to me:
Singing Christmas carols
Stale TV specials
"Batteries Not Included"
No parking?!?
WAAAAAAAAAAH! WAAAAAAAAAAH!
Charities!
Gotta make 'em dinner!
Five months of bills!
I'm not sendin' them this year, that's it!
Shut up, you!
FINE! YOU'RE SO SMART, YOU RIG UP THE LIGHTS!!!
And finding a Christmas tree



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Sat 12/01	History Movie Review 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ely Lower Lounge	Recreational Racquetball 1 p.m. to 11p.m. Racquetball Courts/Wellness Center	Card Night 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 12/02	Roman Catholic Mass 12 p.m to 1 p.m. Chapel Upstairs	Celtics v. Cleveland 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Intramurals 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Parenzo Gym
Mon 12/03	Recreational Swimming 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pool	Fall Sports Banquet 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall ABCD	Patriots at Baltimore 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Tues 12/04	Women's Basketball v. Elms 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Woodward Court	Stressed Out? 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall C	Ben Renda Senior Recital 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dever Auditorium
Wed 12/05	American Red Cross Blood Drive 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Parenzo Gym	R.A.D Class 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Juniper Park Studio	CAB Coffeehouse 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Thurs 12/06	Recreational Racquetball 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Racquetball Court/Wellness Center	Women's Basketball v. Trinity 5:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. Woodward Court 1	Holiday Gathering 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Ely Main Lounge

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Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

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THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | December 7, 2007 | Issue XII

Top 10 signs you've chosen the wrong college

1. First 10 students are offered jobs as professors.

2. Latin motto translates to "I can't believe it's not butter."

3. Kollege is spelled with a K.

4. All that's in the library: paperback anthologies of 'Garfield.

5. The Dean's List salutes student who've slept with the dean.

6. All buildings are covered with ivy...on the inside.

7. You are constantly being acosted by Al Qaeda recruiters.

8. Philosophy lectures are based on that day's "Jerry Springer Final Thought."

9. Most notable alumnus? Britney Spears.

10. You ask about the college endowment...and someone drops his pants.

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

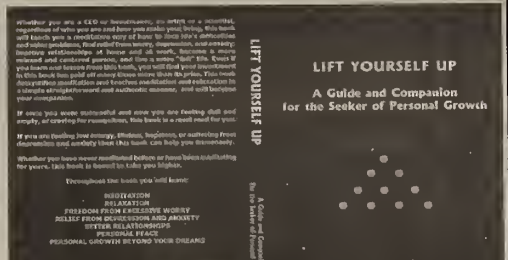






Graduation photos courtesy of Focus Magazine (Fall 2006)

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Graduation is just the beginning

Molly Pappas
Editor-in-Chief

The Class of 2008 will be graduating in six months and many of the members of the senior class are in a panic. *Graduation is six months away! Do I have enough credits? What tests do I need to take for graduate school? Am I going to find a job after graduation?*

Making sure one has enough credits to graduate (or at least walk) is a haunting thought. Many are even unsure of how many credits they actually need to graduate. Graduation requirements include:

- A minimum GPA of 2.0
- Completion of Core classes
- Completion of Major class requirements
- 120 credits

The most practical thing to do is contact your advisor. They hold a folder with all of your academic material, and can easily steer you in the right direction. Another option would be to check out Westfield State's online services website: http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Online_Student_Services/.

You can easily access your academic transcript and view how many credits you currently have. Lastly, contact the registrar's office. Like your advisor, they have files with a student's academic information and can help you determine any credit/class issues.

When a student leaves college, the start of a "new life" is upon them. However, before one graduates, there are several factors that need to be considered. For some individuals, four years of college is more than enough. They are ready to put on that business attire, start working and never, ever again need to stare at the text of an overly priced, worn text book. For others, graduate school may be the only option. You could not become a doctor without medical school or a lawyer without law school, could you? There is no easy answer to the frequently asked question, "Are you going to grad school?" Before you can answer that, there are several questions you have to answer for yourself. Determine where you'd like your career to go and find out whether it would require more schooling. With any graduate program, financial constraints may be prevalent. Seriously consider if you can afford more schooling. Lastly, it's vital that one determines their 'real' reason for wanting to attend school. Is it because you don't want to get a job?

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Academic Pursuits Club takes a trip into New York City

Danielle Rice
Special to The Voice

On Nov. 18, a small group of students met early in front of Ely Library to pile into a school van, and began their journey to New York City. What could draw these students from their warm beds this lazy Sunday? Only something truly amazing, such as a planned trip to visit New York City's Public Library to view the exhibit called "A Beatific Soul: Jack Kerouac On The Road." The promise of seeing Kerouac's famous scroll that was the draft of his iconic novel of the Beat generation was reward enough for these students. And what a reward it was!

Student, Callie Katsounakis said, "It was amazing for me to actually see an important piece of my favorite book…I mean, who gets to see that?! It really gave me a new appreciation of the Beat generation."

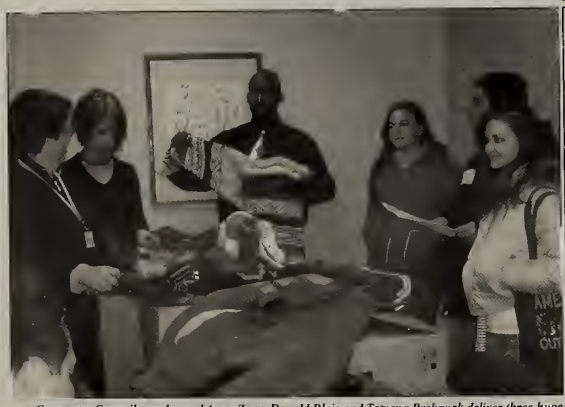
After spending three hours in the library, eyes glazed in wonder, the students walked through Times Square, having a late lunch and discussing the exhibit. The discussion, and the jokes among newly-made friends, continued on the drive back to Westfield where the students separated after more jokes, wishes for happy Thanksgivings and high hopes for the next Academic Pursuits trip.

The club will soon be planning its next event, which may be a trip to an art museum or a musical performance.

To have the opportunity to participate in the next event readers can contact Danielle Rice via the email address academicpursuits@wsc.ma.edu.



Commuter Council Member's l-r: Mohammed Ibrahim, Tatyana Pyshnyak, Donald Blais, and Anne Zuev prepare nearly three huge moving boxes of donated winter caats and clothing which was donated to Nobel Hospital. The Westfield State College Community was extremely generaus and will help many, many people this winter.



Commuter Council members r-l Anne Zuev, Donald Blais and Tatyana Pyshnyak deliver three huge moving boxes full of donated winter coats and clothing from the Westfield State College Community to staff of Nobel Hospital.

Editor's Desk



This is going to be the last issue of The Voice for the semester. There have been amazing improvements with the paper in terms of layout, organization, staff etc. and like always, I want to thank you guys, my loyal readers, for being so supportive and optimistic about the paper. Those are qualities that I feel have been lost over the past several years, and I'm really proud to have brought back excitement linked with the paper.

People have told me and other staff members that they really count on the paper being out every Friday, on schedule, rather than never knowing when the next issue may appear on the stands. I just want to let everyone know that even though I'm going to be VERY busy next semester with classes and an internship, I don't plan on having that change. I feel a responsibility to the Westfield State community to keep them informed on a regular basis.

For next semester, I'm planning on having newspaper stands placed in Wilson and Bates, so the bundles are no longer put on heaters, the floor or on top of the recycle bins. Also, I hope to have an online version of the paper up and running. Besides posting that week's issue, I plan on continually updating it with news feed etc. as it comes in to me and the office.

The "Pictures From Around Campus" will start reappearing because it was a very popular portion of the paper. I would also love it if the students studying abroad would occasionally send a letter or column to the newspaper about their experiences. The option is open to anyone who will be studying abroad next semester, and I think it would be a very interesting addition to the pages.

And as always, anyone who would like to participate/work on The Voice in any capacity is more than welcome to! With the start of the new semester, ambitions may rise, or some students may think, "Oh crap…I have nothing to put on my resume!" That's fine with me! Any help would be awesome (i.e. general news writers. A&E columnists, sports reporters, photographers, layout editors, cartoonists, Opinion/Editorial columnists, copy editors etc).

Ending, I just want to thank everyone for their support this semester. I love my job and I had a great time producing the paper this semester, and I look forward to starting it up again in January. Good luck on your finals and have a great Christmas break!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Classes being canceled because of snow



People who do really stupid things, yet seem completely dumb-founded when they get in trouble for it

Graduation - Continued from page 1

If you are indeed looking into graduate schools, here are a few links that provide helpful tools and information on graduate schools and their individual programs:

•www.peterson.com
•www.gradschools.com
•www.princetonreview.com/grad/

For those who intend to find a job after graduation, which many (if not all) need to do because of student loans and debt, there are the basic job search engines – Career Builders, Monster and Hotjobs. However, college graduates are pushing forward into entry-level positions. Three websites that are dedicated to helping place recent college grads in such entry-level jobs are:

- www.collegegrad.com
- www.collegerecruiter.com
- www.jobweb.com

Besides these helpful resources, the Career Service center, located in the Lammers Annex, provides free-of-charge services that include graduate school advising, resume building, academic and career advisement, on-campus recruiting and a career resource library, among other things. In addition, a part-time job listing is continually updated on the Student link through the Career Services website - http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Current%5FStudents/Career%5FServices/.

Similar with college applications, most graduate schools look for graduate school exam results. The most typical and basic grad school exam is the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations). This test covers the basic verbal knowledge, quantitative and writing levels of an individual. The test is now computer based. There are seven test sites available in Massachusetts. In Western Mass., the test centers are located at the Prometric Test Center in East Longmeadow and the Prometric Test Center in Worcester. For a complete list of Massachusetts test sites, visit https://securereg3.prometric.com/TestCenterSelection.aspx.

Besides the GREs, there are the GMAT, LSAT, MAT etc. Depending on what your focus is for grad school will determine what test you will want to be taking. Individual graduate schools usually list what test exam scores they look for during the application process, so make sure to read over the application requirements carefully before registering for an exam, if necessary.

People look at hopefulness and idealism as naïve. But, in a blog on www.thegraduates.blogs.nytimes.com, one soon-to-be grad's father said, "I think all 22-year-olds are naïve. You've experienced a lot, but still not in the real-world sense; you were still protected some by the university umbrella. There's nothing wrong with being naïve, though, it's part of the maturation process. It's cool."

The senior class has six months until it's graduation, but that doesn't mean the journey is over. In the end, try to never let go of that idealism. Remember the good times and learn from the bad. Attending college has aided in your laying the foundations for your own, personal philosophy on life. Don't look back and see college as just a stage in your educational and future career. There are an array of opportunities and possibilities for everyone, and the beautiful thing is, there are plenty of professors, friends and professional resources available at your fingertips that can guide you in the right direction.

"It may be that we should stop putting so much emphasis in our own minds on the monetary value of a college education and put more emphasis on the intangible social and cultural values to be derived from learning. The time may be coming when we will have to start accepting the idea that education is life, not merely a preparation for it." – Seymour E. Harris



How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

Attention, Seniors!

Only six months left till graduation! Are you prepared for life beyond Westfield State College? Now is the time to take action and begin to prepare for your future course.

Network in your chosen field and attain that career position.

Goals:

- Network in chosen field.
- Target career choice/employer of choice.
- Develop professional skills ... get a job.

Actions Steps Throughout Your Senior Year:

- Schedule an appointment with a counselor in the Career Center (Lammers Hall Annex) to review your senior year plans, including your job search strategy.
- Check out the Career Center home page "OWLLINK" at (www.wsc.ma.edu/careerservices) to link to on-line career and job-search resources.
- Update and prepare your resume for job search and update your "OWLLINK" account on the Career Center website.
- Attend career related workshops, panels, information sessions – listings are found in "OWLLINK" under the Career Events section.
- Track the on-campus interview schedule on a weekly basis and sign-up for interviews through "OWLLINK" under the On-Campus Recruitment section.
- Network! Keep all your options open. Talk with family and friends concerning any opportunities to gain practical work experience.
- Solidify professional development with internships, job shadowing and paid positions, both long and short-term. Subscribe to professional journals.
- Identify job search concerns – location, benefits, salary, opportunity, etc.
- Identify and research potential employers.
- Perform practice interviews to polish your presentation skills.
- Start interviewing six to nine months prior to graduation.
- Education majors: begin completing school district applications three to six months prior to graduation, develop your reference list and gather recommendations.
- Prepare for graduate school tests, write essays, fill out applications and choose desired institutions.
- Polish your academic achievements by making an extra effort on papers and projects. Develop "star quality" by working beyond the assignment. Be innovative.
- Expand your professional wardrobe. Purchase one or two professional outfits that will represent you in a positive manner.
- Notify the Career Center when you obtain employment following graduation by visiting the website on (www.wsc.ma.edu/careerservices) and clicking on the Alumni section.
- Finalize graduation requirements by checking with your program. Order cap and gown, class ring, announcements etc.
- Graduate! And join your Westfield State College Alumni Association.

BE PREPARED AND MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR!!!

Feel free to contact the Career Center with any questions at (413) 572-5206 or by email at careers@wsc.ma.edu

Good Luck, Junior Delgado
Assistant Director, Career Services
& Career Services Staff

Writer's strike to effect every one

KAYLA COURNOYER
VOICE REPORTER

As the end of this seasons shows is coming full speed, everyone is getting more and more excited about what will happen to our favorite characters come January. However, due to recent happenings in Hollywood, next season may not be as exciting, or as finished as it is hoped to be.

As of Nov. 5, 2007, America is experiencing the "2007 Writers Guild of America Strike." This strike is sure to effect the upcoming seasons of everyone's favorite shows.

The Writers Guild of America, East and West, are the two labor unions that represent television, movie and radio writing in the United States. These unions have refused to finish the upcoming seasons.

The Guild is standing up against the "Alliance of Motion Picture and Television," an organization that represents the interests of American television and movie producers.

As of today, no negotiations have taken place between the union and trade companies. Although TV personality Carson Daly has returned to his show preventing 75 of his workers from being laid-off.

Some other TV personalities who have had their shows revert to reruns include Jay Leno and Tina Fey. These writers are standing along the picket-line chanting phrases such as "We write the story," according to E-News online.

Shows affected by the Writers Strike include just about



Photo courtesy of http://blog.seattlepi.nwsource.com/comicbooks/archives/125324.asp?from=blog_last3

everything from sitcoms to late night talk shows, however, according to the L.A. Times, most daytime soap operas are already written well into next year and should continue without missing a beat.

The reasoning behind the Writers Strike is the union's members want to make a fair and sensible agreement.

"If they gave us everything we had on the table right now, if they gave us everything we wanted—everything—and they then made a deal with the DGA and matched it, which is what they'll do, and then they made a deal with the Screen Actors Guild and tripled it, which is typically what happens....if they did that—if they gave us everything—on a company-by-company basis they would be giving all of us less than each of their CEOs makes in a year. And in some cases, a lot less," said WGAW president Patric Verrone on Wikipedia.com.

The last time the Writers Guild of America stopped working was in 1988. That strike, which cost the American entertainment industry about 500 million dollars lasted 22 weeks.

As this season is coming to an end, most shows have about half of their scheduled production completed for the January season, and many have had production stopped all together.

As of now, no one is budging but hopefully the strike will end so America can return to its late night television instead of watching talk-show reruns.

- All information came from Wikipedia.com and online.com

Getting to not know you

Felipe Schrieberg
Special to The Washington Post

Last month Facebook unveiled Beacon, a program that alerts users to their friends' online purchases — and ignited a brush-fire of protest. After 50,000 users signed a petition against having their purchases automatically broadcast, the company amended Beacon's design. I can't help wondering, though: Is this a joke? People are protesting Facebook's violation of privacy?

Like many online junkies, I never intended to devote a significant portion of my life to Mark Zuckerberg's nifty program. I joined Facebook upon arriving at college because (begin ital) everyone (end ital) had a profile. "How can you (begin ital) not (end ital) have one?" people demanded. So I caved and filled in the blanks: school and academic information; contact details (e-mail, cellphone); favorite music, movies, books and quotes. Even a little blurb "about me." And voila! My online profile was ready for review by the 12,558 students and alumni at my university, and I could surf their profiles and "know" their friends. I quickly started "friending" everyone I met so I could get up to speed on his or her status.

I found people I hadn't seen in years: friends from elementary school, former girlfriends, friends of friends of friends. There was Sarah, who had a crush on me in third grade: Nina, from middle school, who has grown into a total babe; Elisa from jazz band. My Facebook frenzy, at first, was driven by the thrill of finding lost childhood contacts and collecting new friends.

Over time I found myself checking my account once, then twice, then five times a day. Every time I sat at a computer I needed to see if I had gotten any "wall posts" or new messages, fresh pictures or picture tags. I (begin ital) had (end ital) to keep my profile up to date. I had to have the most Facebook friends and wall posts, and I had to post pictures of myself partying (at parties mostly organized via Facebook's "events" application).

I gradually came to understand that while I could



Photo courtesy of cnsqblogs.blogspot.com

show the world the great time I was having just being myself, an equally popular — and addictive — aspect of Facebook is that it lets people look into others' private lives. I have access to most profiles in the university network, so I can discover which people know each other, find out whether students have girlfriends or boyfriends, and read their current and past wall posts. I can see what they do in their spare time, what movies they like, their party pictures.

This scrutinizing is a common Facebook practice known as "stalking." Most users tend to do it a lot more than we let on.

It's shocking what you can learn from people's profiles when they live their lives in full view of the public. One couple I know had a fight completely via wall posts, shortly before their "relationship status" changed to "single." Another couple has been declaring undying love for each other for months via wall posts. A picture of a friend of mine kissing a girl at a party was tagged to his collection of pictures, where his girlfriend saw it. A female acquaintance accused someone of being a lousy kisser and apologized to someone else for trying to sleep with her boyfriend; the next day she posted a note apologizing for writing while drunk. (The phrase used to be: Friends don't let friends drive drunk. These days it is: Friends don't let friends Facebook drunk.)

I've found that when discussing mutual acquaintances with friends, someone almost always mentions Facebook. I have also occasionally found myself meeting a friend of a friend — who happens to be someone whose profile I have read. I always act as if I know nothing. No one wants to be seen as a stalker. Yet we're all Jimmy Stewart in "Rear Window," getting a voyeuristic eyeful of people's intimate lives through the windows they themselves have opened.

I'm in recovery now, having realized that the last thing I want is for people to find out about me the things that I used to find out about them. I have removed loads of personal information from Facebook, de-tagging myself from pictures, abandoning the "status update" as a narrative of my private life and walling myself off from Beacon's grasp. These days, I'm finding myself with time on my hands. Best of all, beating my addiction has opened up a novel way to get to know people: face to face.

No more sensationalism, please



Kristi Mientka
Voice Columnist

"Young, attractive white woman goes missing from her vacation in idyllic Aruba." Sounds like a plot of a new thriller movie, doesn't it? But if you turn on the TV, it's just another headline.

This week, police in Aruba arrested two suspects in the Natalee Holloway disappearance case. Unfortunately, that means we'll have to suffer through several weeks of Nancy Grace's pseudo-journalistic sensationalism.



Photo courtesy of www.bertdecker.com/.../nancy_grace_036_1.jpg

Grace is just one of many cable-news reporters who make it their job to cover stories like this one.

As a viewer, I hate being talked down to. I hate being told what's important and what's not.

And as a journalist, I hate the bad name these people give to journalism. Often I've contemplated whether this is actually what I want to do with my life. Reporters are getting such a bad rap these days. They're known more for selling ideas than telling the truth.

Rita Cosby, for instance, covered the death of Anna Nicole Smith with such interest that she decided to write a "tell-all" book about it.

Imagine if, instead of fixating on stories about celebrities and attractive young women, reporters put their time and energy into bigger, perhaps more important issues. What about this little war we have going on in Iraq? Women and children are being displaced from their homes, kidnapped and killed on a daily basis. Why does the misfortune of one American woman — or, for that matter, Paris Hilton's fashion faux pas — take priority over these thousands?

And right here in America, poor African American and Latina women are being assaulted and kidnapped regularly. But think about it, do we ever hear these stories on the news? I can't think of a single one. The vast majority of the victims talked about are young white women from middle or upper-class backgrounds.

Whatever happened to the days of responsible journalists? People who made a positive difference, like Edward R. Murrow, who helped end McCarthyism in the U.S., and Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who uncovered the Watergate scandal?

I'm not trying to minimize the Holloway case. What happened to Natalee — whatever that may be — is horrible to be sure. It's a shame that we live in a world where women are never 100 percent safe. But what's even more shameful is that many reporters feel they have the right to capitalize when things like this happen.

You have a choice. You don't have to listen to it. Change the channel.

Or, hey, here's a radical idea: Turn off the TV.

Editor's Desk



It's the beginning of December, there is only a week and a half left of classes and I sit here writing to Westfield instead of working on my 17 page research paper, and with good reason.

With this being the last edition of The Voice until spring semester, I figured it would be a good time to finally throw my voice out there and say thank you.

Thank you to Molly, Eryn and the rest of the newspaper staff for giving me the opporunity to be Managing Editor of the paper. This has probably been my toughest semester yet but also my most memorable. Working on The Voice has been a major contribution to that.

Thank you to George Layng and Glen Brewster, faculty advisors to The Voice, for giving us the freedom that a newspaper should have and for standing behind us when controversial issues arose.

Thank you to my professors for understanding the stress and time contraints of a full coarse load, full-time job, working on the paper and commuting.

Thank you to anyone who gave suggestions on how you thought the paper could improve. Feedback is vital for reader satisfaction.

And finally, thank you to our readers. Without you The Voice would be obsolete. We write and produce this paper for you. By taking a paper from the rack on Friday mornings you give us a glimpse into our future as journalists and this is invaluable.

See you in January!

Jenn Krok
Managing Editor, The Voice

Breakups as a cathartic experience



Nicole Sylvester

Voice Columnist

Just this past week, I came across a blogger cataloging his collection of movie tickets. He asked, "What about you?" [The reader] "Do you keep yours?" I thought, this calls for a response.

But my response would have been something along the lines of, "I've been keeping movie stubs since I was 13-years -old. Obviously, being a sentimental girl/hopeless romantic, every movie stub had some memory attached to the boy that I went to see it with. And of course being a passionate/emotionally charged girl after every break up, the ticket stubs got burned."

Seriously, I'm 21 now and I still keep a collection of things just so that I can burn them when the relationship is over. (At least I have grown enough to understand that it will, inevitably, be over). So, I have no idea how many movies I have seen. Nor do I have a way of keeping track.

And this train of thought led me to think...this should be my next article: after the demise of a relationship. I already did one about how time heals all wounds. Eventually, you will be over him/her. But this I think should be about the cathartic exercises that one is allowed to engage in as a catharsis*, in order relieve themselves of the pain of an ending. (*Catharsis: the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions). This includes, but is not limited to giving/shipping back belongings, burning ticket, stubs boxing up memories or possibly as extreme as vandalizing their belongings.

In different situations, different actions are appropriate. In some cases you have a once passionate relationship that simply fizzled out. The appropriate cathartic exercise in this case involves shipping things back or allowing them to collect dust in a closet. A face-to-face meeting may not be necessary. In a different case, where you had a 'passionate' relationship that simply ended by the declaration from one half of the party, I believe that a face-to-face confrontation is entirely appropriate. If you have his or her belongings, returning them face-to-face and confronting both of your feelings is a must. Whether you need to see for yourself if your feelings are gone or whether it's because you need to see how they are feeling, both of these things can easily be observed. If you find your knees quaking, you're probably not over him. It's good to know early so that when you do bump into him you can avoid him at all costs. If his hands are shaking when he sees you, he's probably a wussy. Oops, what I mean is that he obviously can't handle seeing you- that can mean one of many things. But the fact of the mater is that if handled properly, this face-to-face meeting allows the opportunity to fess up to whatever it is that he may be feeling. In fact, you have the same opportunity. If neither one of you takes it, that's where it ends. If neither of you says what needs to be said, let it go. That's what face-to-face delivery of belongings is for.

In the case of a severely broken heart with no possibility of reconciliation, this is when you break out the lighter fluid. Grab the gifts you've collected over the years, collages you made and photos you took, and bring them to your destination. Whether it's your backyard, fireplace or favorite camp site- burning is possibly the best form of catharsis when you're down right pissed off. Nothing heals better than the chance to bundle up, grab yourself a beer, sit back in front of a bonfire and enjoy the disappearance of time wasted.

Last but not least, vandalism. Feel free to rip up his favorite sweatshirt or that stupid teddy bear that she gave you. That is, if they're not coming back for it. I always end up feeling guilty. This is appropriate if you are really angry.

It's amazing how well the jaded can create written prose about the end of things that are inevitable. Have fun with your misery, burn away your pain; but most importantly get ready to move on.

Christmastime in the city



Eryn Carter

Layout Editor

The holidays are upon us and Thanksgiving is long gone despite still being able to smell that turkey cooking. I'm sure that some of you have begun your holiday shopping, or like many, won't even begin to think about it until the week before.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to go to New York City for the day. I mean, how could I resist a $5 ticket for a round-trip to the city. Getting the ticket is always the difficult part. My boyfriend and I arrived at Ely at 7:15 a.m. and thankfully we were one of the first ones there.

The morning of the trip, it snowed. And not just a flurry. It looked like a blizzard suddenly arrived on campus and it was freezing out. Thankfully, we arrived to the city after a small delay.

Now, if you've never been to New York City, I highly recommend not going during Christmas. It's crowded; it's nearly impossible to walk and people get pretty mean. On the plus side, it's gorgeous and a site to see. Fifth Avenue was adorned with amazing light displays and decorations.

Displayed in the streets were giant, glittering snowflakes which many of the tourists stop to take pictures of. I was one of those tourists that day. Rockefeller Center is a site during the day, but transforms into a winter wonderland at night. Everything is lit up with white lights. There are glowing angels in the center and surrounding the ice rink, and then there is the tree- the famous tree. During the day, it's not the prettiest thing, but at night it's something you would never forget. While we were there, a man even proposed to his girlfriend as thousands crowded around to watch.



Snowflake on 5th Avenue photo by Eryn Carter

Sparkling wreaths, giant nutcrackers on the streets, huge light displays on tops of enormous skyscrapers- these were just a few of the things that adorned the city. One building even had snowflakes plastered all over the side, which when you took a picture of them, they looked like they were floating. And about every 15 minutes they would blink to music. It was amazing.

Granted, we enjoyed other things as well. We walked over 20 blocks to the American Museum of Natural History, took a stroll though Central Park, ate at a pizza place on a side street, trekked down to Times Square where we battled the Broadway crowds and sipped coffee in a trendy café. To end the spectacular day, we walked into St. Patrick's Cathedral in the middle of Saturday night services. Needless to say, it was a day I won't soon forget.

The city at night was amazing. They may call Vegas the 'City of Lights' during the holidays, I'm pretty sure New York City takes the cake.

Letter to the Editor

60 Madison Avenue
Holyoke, Massachusetts
01040-2401
December 2007

Dear Students:

Father John Dean has served Westfield State College as the Roman Catholic Chaplain of the Amelia and Albert Ferst Interfaith Center for the past 25 years. When he started at WSC, there were less than 2,000 students. Now there are nearly 5,000 students and Father Dean continues his campus ministry. As you are well aware, he has touched the hearts of thousands of our students.

In 2005, Father Dean decided to retire and the WSC Foundation announced a campaign to raise $250,000 in order to establish a scholarship and name the college dining commons in his honor. At that time, $45,000 was raised. But when the Diocese of Springfield told the Foundation that they would not replace Father Dean with a permanent priest, he decided to remain as Chaplain.

For those who contribute $500 and above, their names will appear on the printed program. They will receive special seating at the dedication and be invited to a special dinner in honor of Father Dean. Those who give under $500 will have their names on the program.

You may wish to consider a three or five year pledge which would make you a top donor. If you are interested in a long-term pledge commitment, please contact Bob Ziomek at the Foundation Office—413-572-5210.

If you wish to make a gift now, you may send it to the Westfield State College Foundation, 333 Western Ave., Westfield, MA 01086, or post it in the college mail room in Parenzo.

If you are a student, only you know how much Father Dean has helped you and your classmates while you are in college. I have heard countless stories of his many kindnesses and much sought after assistance.

I sincerely hope that you will join me in making a gift to help the Father John Dean Campaign reach its goal and make the Dean Dining Commons a reality.

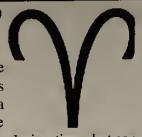
My best good wishes,

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Dower-Gold
Professor Emerita of Music History

cdowergold@comcast.net
413-532-2081

Aries (March 21-April 19)



Impulsive Aries people like to party and sometimes don't know when to call it a night. Their competitive streak makes them prone to closing-time shot contests. They're sloppy, fun drunks, and they get mighty flirty after a couple tipples. Getting Aries people drunk is a good way to get what you want out of them, should other methods fail. Aries can become bellicose when blotto, but they will assume that whatever happened should be forgiven (if not forgotten) by sunrise. They can be counted on to do the same for you, so long as you haven't gone and done anything really horrible to them last night, you sneaky Gemini.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



Taurus prefers to drink at a leisurely pace, aiming for a mellow glow rather than a full-on zonk. Since a truly intoxicated Taurus is a one-person stampede, the kind of bull-in-a-china-shop inebriate who spills red wine on white carpets and tells fart jokes to employers, the preference for wining and dining (or Bud and buddies) to body shots and barfing is quite fortunate for the rest of us. This is not to say that the Bull is by any means a teetotaler, god, no. A squiffy Taurus will get, er, gregarious (full of loudmouth soup, some would say) and is extremely amusing to drag to a karaoke bar when intoxicated.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



Geminis can drink without changing their behavior much -- they're so naturally chatty and short-attention-spanned that it's just hard to tell sometimes. They can amaze you by conversing with finesse and allusion, then doing something to belie an extremely advanced state of intoxication, like puking in your shoe. Geminis possess the magic ability to flirt successfully (and uninfuriatingly, which is very tricky) with several people at once. They like to order different cocktails every round, repetition is boring, and may create a theme (like yellow drinks: beer, sauvignon blanc and limoncello) for their own amusement.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



Cancer is a comfort drinker, and an extra wine with dinner or an after-work beer or six can be extra comforting, can't it, Cancer darling? Like fellow water signs Scorpio and Pisces, Crabs must guard against lushery. Cancers are brilliant at ferreting out secret parties and insinuating themselves on VIP lists, and, in true Hollywood style, Cancers are never really drunk; instead, they get "tired and emotional" (read: weepy when lubricated). But there's nothing better than swapping stories (and spit) over a few bottles of inky red wine with your favorite Cancer. Even your second-favorite Cancer will do. The sign also rules the flavor vanilla, and you'd be adored if you served up a vanilla vodka and soda.

Leo (July 23-August 22)



Leo likes to drink and dance, they're often fabulous dancers, and usually pretty good drinkers as well, losing their commanding dignity and turning kittenish. Of course, they're quite aware they're darling - Leos will be Leos, after all. They generally know their limit, probably because they loathe losing self-control. When they get over-refreshed, expect flirting to ensue, and perhaps not with the one that brought them. But Leo's not the type to break rules even when drunk, so just try to ignore it (try harder, Cancer) and expect a sheepish (and hung over) Lion to make it up to you the next day.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Cerebral Virgos are compelled to impose order onto their bender. Their famously fussy quest for purity could lead to drinking less than other signs, sure, but it could also lead to drinking booze neat, to sucking down organic wine or just to brand loyalty. They rarely get fully shellacked, but, oh, when they do! Virgo's controlled by the intellect, but there's an unbridled beast lurking within, and they let it loose when walloped. It's dead sexy (and surprisingly unsloppy). As one Virgo friend used to declare, "I'm going to drink myself into a low level of intelligence tonight." A toast to the subgenius IQ!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)



"I'm jusht a social drinker," slurs Libra, "it's jusht that I'm so damn social?" Libra loves nothing more than to party, mingle and relate to everyone. Whether dipped in favor of Good Libra (with Insta-Friend device set to "on") or heavier on the Evil Libra side (they are little instigators when bored), the Scales can really work a room. Charming as they are, Libras are notoriously lacking in self-control, which can get them into all sorts of trouble, including wearing their wobbly boots waaaay too early in the evening, flirting with every man/woman in the room or even blacking out the night's events entirely. Oops!

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)



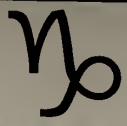
Don't ever tell Scorpios they've had enough, for they'll smirk at you and quietly but intentionally keep tippling till they're hog-whimpering drunk, out of 100-proof spite. Scorpios like to drink, and screw you if you have a problem with that. Most of them see the sauce as something to savor in itself, and not as a personality-altering tool, though if depressed, self-loathing Scorps seek total obliteration. But generally, they're fascinating drinking pals, brilliant conversationalists and dizzying flirts. They also remember everything, especially what you did when you were blitzed. Only drink with a Scorpio who likes you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



In vino veritas, and, for Sagittarius, in booze blurtiness: When buttered, they'll spill all your secrets and many of their own. Tactlessness aside, Sagittarius is just plain fun to drink with. This is a sign of serious partying (what else would you expect from the sign of Sinatra, Keith Richards, the Bush twins and Anna Nicole Smith?). They're the people who chat up everyone in the room, then persuade the entire crowd to travel somewhere else, like a nightclub, or a playground, or Cancun. Good-natured hijinks are sure to ensue (including a high possibility of loopy groping; spontaneous Sag is a brilliant booty call).

Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 21)



Capricorn is usually described as practical, steadfast, money-hungry and status-thirsty, no wonder they get left off the astrological cocktail-party list. But this is the sign of David Bowie and Annie Lennox, not to mention Elvis. Capricorn is the true rock star: independent, powerful and seriously charismatic, not too eager to please. And if they make money being themselves, who are you to quibble? But just like most rock stars, they're either totally on or totally off, and they generally need a little social lubricant to loosen up and enjoy the after party, especially if they can hook up with a cute groupie.

Aquarius
(Jan.22 - Feb. 18)



Aquarius and drinking don't go together that well (except for water, that is). They have an innate tendency toward know-it-allism, and if they get an idea while sizzled, they're more stubborn than a stain or a stone. If they're throwing a party or organizing an outing, however, they're too preoccupied with their duties to get combative, and they make perfectly charming drunks in that case. Fortunately, they're usually capital drink-nursers. They also make the best designated drivers (if you can get them before they start raising their wrist): Aquarius is fascinated by drunk people and capable of holding interesting conversations with soused strangers while sober.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)



If you're a Pisces, you've probably already heard that you share a sign and an addictive personality, with Liz Taylor, Liza Minelli and Kurt Cobain. Not only do Pisces like to lose themselves in the dreamy, out-there feeling that only hooch can give, but they build up a mighty tolerance fast. Who needs an expensive date like that? On the other hand, they're fabulously enchanting partners, whether in conversation or in crime. With the right Pisces, you can start out sharing a pitcher of margaritas and wind up in bed together for days. The phrase "addictive personality" can be read two ways, you know.

HOROSCOPE PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.ASTROLOGY.ABOUT.COM

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"If the people were a little more ignorant, astrology would flourish - if a little more enlightened, religion would perish."

Robert Green Ingersoll

"Most people today still believe, perhaps unconsciously, in the heliocentric universe every newspaper in the land has a section on astrology, yet few have anything at all on astronomy."

Hannes Alfven

Avenged Sevenfold: heavy metal poseurs for the MTV generation

Chris Dondoros
A&E Editor

Avenged Sevenfold is a band that seems to polarize people. Some people see them as metal's saviors, mixing old-school heavy metal riffs and guitar solos with sing-along choruses appealing to mainstream audiences. On the flip side, some people see them as nothing more than heavy metal poseurs - a talented band bogged down by their own sense of self-importance and pretentious image. Their newest effort, the self-titled Avenged Sevenfold, firmly establishes them as the latter of the two.

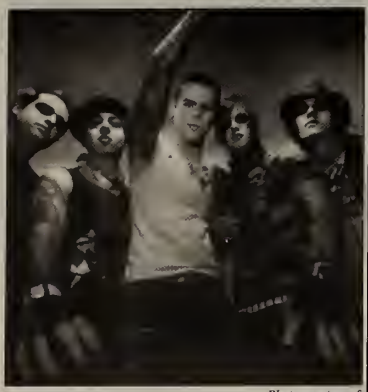


Photo courtesy of www.rockdetector.com/assets/img/artists/32411.jpg

While the boys from "A7X" are more than competent musicians, there's nothing truly interesting or original about this album, let alone the band itself. From their hard-partying Motley Crue-meets-G n' R image, to their dual guitar harmonies, it's all been done before – mostly in the 1980s – and it's all been done much, much better. On songs such as "Critical Acclaim," "Almost Easy" and "Lost," the band merely comes across as a bunch of musicians trying too hard to satisfy their newfound, MTV friendly fan base (and record label), while still appealing to longtime fans – fans that listened to the band long before "Bat Country" or the sappy "Seize the Day" hit airwaves in 2005. The few strong points on this album occur when the band wears their influences on their sleeves – such as the Pantera-esque groove of "Scream," but even the best of songs are bogged down by vocalist M. Shadows limited vocal range, faux aggression and uninspired lyrics.

As a musician myself, I'm wary of labeling bands as "sell-outs" as this is a misleading and unfair label in most cases – an excuse to judge a band's natural progression as musicians and songwriters. In the case of "Avenged Sevenfold" though, this label seems to be more than fitting. While this album may speak volumes to the angst-ridden Hot Topic crowd, it offers little to listeners looking for something new, original or remotely inspiring.

2/5

'Awake' seems like a bad dream

Jan Stuart
Newsday

If you have an ax to grind with someone who harbors a morbid fear of surgery, you couldn't design a better revenge than taking them to see "Awake."

If the object of your mischief also happens to be a connoisseur of sly Hitchcockian chills, so much the better. The thumbprints of the late master of suspense are nowhere to be found on this trashily in-your-face thriller, which leans heavily for its effects on intense sympathy pain, improbable reversals and the star appeal of Jessica Alba.

Hayden Christensen goes under the knife as Clay Beresford, a rich New York businessman with a weak heart and a blind spot for his adoring girlfriend, Sam (Alba). Clay marries Sam over the objections of his mother (Lena Olin, turning up the smarmy-matriarch heat to a low boil). Mom also objects to his chosen surgeon for an imminent heart transplant, an affable friend named Dr. Jack Harper (Terrence Howard) with a dubious record of "two mortgages, two ulcers and two divorces."

That latter accounting is rendered by mom's sour-grapes surgeon of choice, Dr. Neyer (Arliss Howard), an exceedingly self-important twit who claims to have operated on presidents but always seems to be available whenever the script requires him. Disregarding his mother in all matters of the heart, Clay goes with his own man, and ends up with a tippling anesthesiologist who is more anesthetized during the surgery than he is.

The centerpiece of "Awake" is a heart operation with multiple birds-eye shots of Clay's beating organ, complemented by the crescendoing voice of Christensen screaming variations on "Oh, no, no, no, please God! Oh no, no, no, no! It's just pain, it's just pain!"

While political races heat up, writers' strike leaves late-night humorists speechless

Paul Farhi
The Washington Post

The great national strategic political comedy reserve has been depleted.

Thanks to the TV writers' strike, millions of citizens have been deprived (for 24 days now!) of their late-night dose of sarcasm and slashing wit, of irony and smart-aleck quips. No Letterman, no Leno, no Stewart or Colbert.

As a compressed schedule of presidential primaries rapidly approaches, the nation's Irony Deficiency comes at the worst possible time. Without late-night comedy, how will we really know what or whom to make fun of? With a few precious weeks before Iowa and New Hampshire, will political journalists be forced to create their own caricatures of the candidates without any help from "Saturday Night Live," Conan or even that Scottish guy?

More important is the general loss of swagger and sass on TV. What would we be as a nation without our nightly ridicule, our daily back-talking to, and humiliation of, the pretenders to power? Answer: We'd be Canada.

Look at all the juicy targets that have passed recently without extracurricular commentary. What would "indecision 2008" have done with Hillary Clinton's comment about being able to stand the heat of the campaign because she's "real comfortable in the kitchen"? What would Jay Leno make of Mike Huckabee's surge in Iowa (and his endorsements from both Chuck Norris and former pro wrestler Ric "Nature Boy" Flair)? What fun could "SNL" have with the news that arch-social-conservative Pat Robertson has endorsed Republican Rudy Giuliani, a candidate who: (a) is thrice-married, (b) once engaged in an openly adulterous affair, (c) is pro-abortion and (d) supports gay and lesbian rights?

If an irony falls in the primary and there's no late-night comic to joke about it, did it really exist?

Although the occasional JibJab satire will go "viral" on the Internet, the Web has no equivalent to Leno and Letterman for consistent political satire.

Besides, the candidates need late-night comedy shows as much as the electorate does. A guest appearance on "The Tonight Show" telegraphs that the candidate gets the joke. Candidates have known this for decades, whether it's Richard Nixon appearing on "Laugh-In" or Bill Clinton scoring cool points by playing the sax on "The Arsenio Hall Show." Until the strike, Hillary Clinton had appeared twice on Letterman's "Late Show," perhaps to show that she's not the ice maiden portrayed in comics' monologues.

There's also nothing like the late-night comedy shows to establish, or perhaps just reinforce, a candidate's persona. Indeed, almost any major politician of recent vintage can be reduced to his TV comedy caricature. Bill Clinton: philanderer, glutton, liar. George W. Bush: inarticulate, incompetent, a puppet of Vice President Cheney. Al Gore (pre-Nobel Prize): pompous, wooden, wonky.

And then there's Hillary Clinton.

The Democratic senator from New York is the candidate who stands to gain most from the hiatus because she's been the butt of the jokes far more often, says Robert Lichter, director of the Center for Media and Public Affairs in Washington. The center calculates that there have been 186 Hillary jokes on five late-night shows since the start of the year, compared with 72 about Giuliani and 56 about Barack Obama, the next two most-cracked-about candidates.

Clinton, in fact, has been the subject of almost as many wisecracks as all her Democratic rivals combined.

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The Voice

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Late-night humorists
Continued from page 8

The jokes have tended to play on the same few themes: Hillary as long-suffering wife, Hillary as chilly and robotic. (Sample: "Former President Bill Clinton says he has been very, very concerned about global warming. In fact, earlier this week, another chunk of ice fell off his wife." — Letterman.)

Lichter observes, "The absence (of comedy shows) from the airwaves makes it easier for Mrs. Clinton to appear presidential."

Viewers don't really remember a joke, he says. But they remember a barrage of jokes that repeat similar punch lines. "Getting attention isn't the same as getting praise," Lichter says. "When you're getting clobbered with jokes, it helps the dark horses (in the race). If you take that away, it doesn't give the contenders an advantage. It just leaves the current situation at status quo."

That's not just wrong. That's un-American. Hurry back, Dave and Jon and Jay and ...

On DVD: A supersized, super funny `Superbad'

CURT FIELDS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Odds are you're familiar with producer Judd Apatow's comedy "Superbad." The story of two high school boys trying desperately to get liquor to facilitate losing their virginity was in the box office top 10 for six weeks, two of those at No. 1.

It's available on DVD in a two-disc "unrated extended edition" ($34.95) that's rife with extras. But first, a quick recap just in case you're not one of the reasons it sold so many tickets. Jonah Hill plays Seth, a chubby, foul-mouthed porn addict. Michael Cera is his best friend, Evan. The constant stream of dirty sight gags and profanity is directed with confident ease by Greg Mottola and is hilariously funny in the same style as Apatow's "Knocked Up" (star Seth Rogen co-wrote and appears in "Superbad") and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

The DVD extras are almost as prolific as the movie's gags, and several are just as funny. One standout is "Line-O-Rama," in which the actors (most often Hill) deliver a rapid-fire succession of different lines for the same scene. It's fun to see the approaches filmmakers tried in deciding what dialogue to use in the film. Along the same lines is the amusing short feature on "TV Safe Lines." In it, Hill bemoans having to record cleaned-up versions of scenes to make it easier to someday air the movie on television. We can't print a comparison, but it's like going from a habanero pepper sauce to a bowl of rice pudding.

"The Music of Superbad" isn't particularly informative, but it's entertaining to see funk greats Bootsy Collins, Bernie Worrell and Catfish Collins at work in the studio.

Cera is on his way to establishing a side career as a star of bonus features for Apatow. On a "Knocked Up" DVD featurette, he was portrayed as a demanding diva who wouldn't take direction. The "Superbad" DVD includes "Everyone Hates Michael Cera," wherein he's cluelessly enthusiastic and the rest of the cast and crew is irritated by his mere presence, actively trying to avoid him.

There are several more bonus features, including a typical gag reel with the usual assortment of folks flubbing lines and cracking up mid-scene; "Press Junket Meltdown," which plays like a "Saturday Night Live" skit only with more profanity; on-set diaries; audition footage; the original table read; and commentary from the filmmakers and cast.



Photo courtesy of blog.cleveland.com/entertainment/movies/

Those and additional extras add up to a release fans of the film will want almost as much as the boys desired booze.

'Juno' is long overdue

CARINA CHOCANO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- In "Juno," a spunky teenage girl (Ellen Page) named after the Roman goddess of women and childbirth gets herself accidentally knocked-up and decides to carry the pregnancy to term and then give "the thing" (as she fondly refers to her unborn progeny) up for adoption to a picture-perfect couple she finds advertised in the local Penny Saver.

If the premise sounds like just the thing to raise a few eyebrows at some conservative media watchdog groups, wait until they see how it turns out. Of course, any forthcoming blasts of righteous condemnation will probably only add to the overall experience of the movie, which is already about as entertaining as it gets. Directed by Jason Reitman ("Thank You for Smoking") from a screenplay by hot newcomer and media darling Diablo Cody, whose memoir "Candy Girl" recounted her year as an "unlikely stripper" in Minnesota, "Juno" is hilarious and sweet-tempered, perceptive and surprisingly grounded. It's also a gust of fresh air, perspective-wise, in that it follows the gestational misadventures of a girl, whose hotness is not actually her most salient characteristic, from the girl's point of view.

At first, it seems as the script is going to stay glib and superficial and that Juno will communicate via rim shot zingers exclusively, even in moments of crisis. Page first appears on-screen walking to the drug store, chugging Sunny Delight from a gallon jug on her way to buy yet another home pregnancy test. Pint-sized and intense, Juno has a sardonic nonchalance that masks whatever emotional turmoil she's going through. But her deadpan stance occasionally falls away to reveal what she is -- a young kid in a tough spot, which only makes her earlier bravado feel all the more authentic. Although some of her one-liners feel forced, others capture the sardonic lack of affect that cool adolescent girls -- and we haven't seen them on-screen, it seems, since "Ghost World" came out in 2001 -- find so comforting. "I'm going to call Women Now," she tells her best friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby) after breaking the news of her pregnancy, "because they help women now."

It also helps that the sublime Michael Cera has been cast as Bleeker, Juno's buddy and secret admirer, and the unlikely father of her baby. A track geek whose milky, short-clad thighs, intense (possibly myopic) gaze and terry cloth headbands make him more intriguing than he knows, Bleeker belongs to the same genus as the characters Cera played in "Superbad" and "Arrested Development" -- smart, awkward, sincere, serious, weirdly irresistible. A gruff-but-lovable J.K. Simmons and a saucy Allison Janney are equally adorable as Juno's dad and step mom, Mac and Brenda MacGuff , whom Cody and Reitman treat with a degree of affection and respect rarely afforded to parents in teen comedies. ("You're not going to be a Pop Pop," Brenda tells Mac at one point. "Someone else is going to find a blessing from Jesus in this garbage dump of a situation.")

But the movie doesn't truly blossom until Juno meets and starts to get to know Mark and Vanessa Loring (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman), a beautiful couple in their mid-30s who live in lovingly sterilized McMansion in a gated community . A serious, soft-spoken executive who is desperate for a baby but has been unable to conceive, Vanessa comes across at first like a type-A control freak. Juno identifies more easily with Mark, a former musician who writes commercial jingles and yearns for his lost youth.

Despite having opted for a "closed" adoption, which means she'll have no involvement in the baby's life as it grows up, Juno finds herself nonetheless drawn to the Lorings' house as she feels the need to share the experience with someone who cares, and feels more and more alienated from her classmates.

Mark, who works from home alone, is always glad to see her, though for him, Juno's visits are a chance to regress, haul out the comic books and swap music mixes. As much as Juno enjoys their camaraderie, it's tinged with a sense that they're communicating from parallel dimensions -- she's hanging out with his inner high-schooler while her grown-up self finds his immaturity appalling.

Meanwhile, the more she gets to know Vanessa, the more she understands what her choice means. In one of the movie's most beautiful scenes -- Garner is touchingly awkward in it -- Juno encourages Vanessa to talk to the baby in her belly, and Vanessa delivers what is perhaps the movie's least clever, most heartbreaking line, a shy "I can't wait to meet you" so intimate you forget she's talking to the baby through another person, at a mall. Funny as "Juno" is, it's scenes like these that ultimately make it so satisfying. Deceptively superficial at the outset, the movie deepens into something poignant and unexpected.

Brophy goes for world record

ROB MCGINNITY
SPORTS REPORTER

Justin Brophy, nicknamed "the pull-up kid," is currently a sophomore at Westfield State College. He is attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Record for pull-ups in one minute. Justin is from Barre, Mass. and attended Quabbin Regional High School. You may have seen Justin around campus or in Courtney Hall where he resides. He's about 5 feet 4 inches and weighs around 145 pounds. He's got a shaved head and a frequent visitor to the Ely gym. This is where the magic happens.

I sat down with Justin and asked him some questions about the record he's going for and what goes into breaking a record.

Rob McGinnity- What do you need to do in order to break a Guinness Book of World Record?

Justin Brophy- You need to contact the Guinness Book of World Records people through e-mail. There is a set of rules and requirements. You need to have photos and footage of what you're doing, such as pull- ups. You must submit the photos as well your footage of breaking a record on a VHS or DVD. When you actually attempt the record you need officials and witnesses present.

RM- Who does an official have to be?

JB- An official can be a town person such as the major, priest, constable or police officer.

RM- What is the world record for pull-ups in one minute?

JB- Right now, the record stands at 44 pull-ups.

RM- How many pull-ups can you do in one minute?

JB- I can do 54 in one minute on a consistent basis. Depending on the day of the week, the number differs. At the beginning of the week the number is lower because of the weekend but by mid-week it's higher. The most pull-ups I've done until fatigue without time as a factor, is 61.

RM- Is there a certain technique that you must follow for doing a pull-up in order for it to count?

JB- Yes, there are a few rules that you must do. Your chin must be above the bar, arms straight when you go down and no lower body movement i.e. leg kicks. During the official attempt for the record, there will be cameras looking at these features.

RM- What got you into pull-ups?

JB- I got into them in elementary school when we had to do those fitness tests. I did like 20 and realized I was good at them. I fell in love with pull-ups then and have been ever since.

RM- What inspired you to do this record?

JB- When my friends and I were in Wal-Mart one day getting supplies, we looked at the GBWR book and saw that the record was 40 at the time. And I figured I could do it. And my friend timed me and I went up on the bar at my own house and I got 40. I did 40 and on the way down I stopped and he said what are you doing, you have 15 seconds left. I said, "I was just trying to tie the record."

RM- What's the process in order to apply for a World Record?

JB- You fill out a bunch of applications and tell them what record you want to go for. Then you tell them if you want a Guinness official which you have to pay for. If not, you got to provide them and have it taped and everything. They ask what news coverage you want. You put your preferences down. It takes four to six weeks for them to get back to you. Then you fill something else for them and it takes another four to six weeks for them to say ok and then you can do your record. I've tried this process but my first attempt failed due to no internet at one point. They sent me a message and I had to reply to time sensitive material in the e-mail. So, that was a missed opportunity. I am now trying to do the process again for a fourth time next week. The Guinness Book of World Records is located in England which makes getting in touch with them a big pain.

RM- You're a muscular guy. Did you get your build from just pull-ups?

JB- Yes, sort of. I also do push-ups and sit-ups in addition to pull ups.

RM- How often do you go to the gym and what does your workout consist of?

JB- I go to the gym five days a week for about an hour. I don't usually go on the weekends. I do a routine which involves 170 pull-ups a night on average. I go for the minute record and a number of pull-ups involving different hand placement for my pull-up workout. These include my hands close together, wide apart, reverse grip, behind my head and normal before the night is done. I also do push-ups and sit-ups to get a more rounded work out.

RM- I know many athletes these days use supplements in order get bigger and stronger. Do you take any type of supplements for better performance?

JB- I don't take any supplements, I'm all natural. As far as steroids go, you get tested for them before you compete for a record.

RM- What is your motivation that keeps you going for this record?

JB- "My own motivation comes from myself." My motivation is that don't take any supplements, being all natural is a big deal to me. Self pride from being built without taking supplements, especially being a little guy. It feels good to be able to do it and say that.

RM- Does people watching you do pull-ups affect you?

JB- No, not really anymore. It used to when I was younger but I slowly grew out of it. It first started in middle school when we would change before class. I would do pull-ups before class. Then kids would slowly start to watch me and the number of kids grew as weeks went by. So, I became more comfortable with people watching me and now I am comfortable when people watch me. It happens at the gym, people will be working out and then they will glance over or start watching what I'm doing.

RM- What would you do if a WSC student came up to you and challenged you to do pull- ups?

JB- I would love to because everyone knows that they're not going to beat me. When I came to school, people first knew me as the "pull-up kid" instead of Justin. I would go to the gym and these huge guys thought they could beat me and I would always win. People look at me and think I wouldn't be able to do a lot of pull-ups but then I prove them wrong.

RM- What is the benefit of being in the Guinness Book of World Records?

JB- You get a certificate, name in the book and publicity, which means some sort of news hopefully channel 7.

RM- After you break the record, will you continue to do pull-ups?

JB- Yes, just because I break the record doesn't mean I'm going to pack it in or stop. I'm going to do them regardless, so when I break the record I will keep doing pull-ups like I always do.

RM- What do your family and friends think about the record?

JB- They think it's absolutely amazing. I get a lot of support from my friends. I get encouragement and humor from Mom and Dad. They say, "The record is great but focus on your SCHOOLWORK because we're paying for it."

Justin would love to get the record over and done with. He wants the support of WSC campus to cheer him on when he does go for the record. Justin plays many intramurals sports here on campus. He is also on the cross country team. A nickname for Justin is the "Cookie Monster." Despite being a built kid, he has been known to get a plate of cookies at the Dining Commons and finish them off in one sitting. His friends joke that he eats a plate of cookies and then goes for an eight mile run. Not only is he good at pull-ups, but he is quite the impersonator. He can do a pretty good Arnold Schwarzenegger, Christopher Walken and Rocky impression. One of Justin's biggest aspirations with this record is being able to tell his kids when he's older that he is in the Guinness Book of World Records. To quote Justin, "I am the pull-up champion, I will go up against anyone and destroy them."

Westfield stops Springfield, 82-69

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - Ryan Mauer scored a game-high 26 points and Dave Jachnig tallied 22 points as the Westfield State Owls topped the Pride, 82-69, in the second day of the Pioneer Valley Hoop Classic.

The loss drops the Pride to 1-3 this season as it has dropped its last three contests while the Owls improve to 3-3 this season. In Saturday's other game, Amherst held on for a 63-51 victory over a determined Western New England team.

Senior point guard Andrew Olson - the reigning Division III player of the year - led the Lord Jeffs with 17 points and nine assists and was the tournament MVP.

The Owls led by as much as eight in the first half after a layup by Matt Badjo put the visitors up 23-15 with 6:43 left. However, the Pride responded with a 10-2 run in the next 2:41 capped off by a pair of Pat Crean (Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.) free throws to knot the contest at 20 apiece. The Pride could only muster six more points the rest of the half as Westfield went into the locker room with a 36-31 advantage.

In the second half, the Pride got as close as three after a Crean jumper cut the Owls lead to 47-44 with 15:22 left in the game. From there, the Owls opened up a 20-9 run over the next 7:42 to take a commanding 67-53 led with 7:40 on the clock. Jachnig registered eight points in the run to lead the way.

John Strawson (Torrington, Conn.) was named to the All-Tournament for the Pride as he netted a career-best 20 points to go along with nine boards. Jamaal Gibbs (Norwalk, Conn.) added 13 points, six boards, and five assists while Ryan Blackmon (Stamford, Conn.) chipped in with 11 points in a balanced attack. Crean finished with 10 points, six rebounds, and six assists, while Gregg Daly (Farmington, Conn.) recorded 10 points and eight rebounds.

Westfield shot 59 percent from the field, including a sizzling 67 percent in the second half. The Pride struggled from the field in the game as it went 16 of 29 (55.2%) from the charity stripe and 3 of 18 (16.7%) from downtown.



Westfield State freshman Chris Furrows takes a jump shot during the Owls' Pioneer Valley Classic game vs. Amherst at Springfield College.

Patriots stay undefeated

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Reporter

With a close victory against the Baltimore Ravens on Monday, the Patriots remain undefeated, and better their record to 12-0.

Brady's touchdown drive late in the fourth quarter is what secured the 27-24 win for the Pats. Jabar Gaffney scored the touchdown with 44 seconds left on the clock. Penalties were also a contributing factor for the Pats sustaining their lead, and keeping their undefeated record.

For a while it looked as if the Pats might suffer their first loss of the season. However, the defense pulled it together, and Brady and his offense managed to score some points.

Baltimore was thought to be a huge underdog in this game, considering their record was 4-7 before their loss to the Pats. If the Patriots want to continue to stay undefeated, they need to recapture some of the magic from earlier in the season. Their next opponent, the Pittsburgh Steelers, could be a challenge.

Pittsburgh has a record of 9-3, so the Pats could have their work cut out for them if they don't step up their game a bit. However, the game will be played at home at Gillette Stadium, so maybe that will help get some of the Pats magic back.

No matter what happens in the following weeks of the season, the Patriots will be in the playoffs. They have already won the AFC East title, so that grants them a spot to play in the first round of the playoffs.

There's no doubt that it would be amazing if the Patriots could finish the season undefeated. Pats fans will just have to wait and see what happens. There may be a few bumps in the road like the Baltimore game, and Pats fans might suffer near heart attacks, but in the end I believe the Patriots will persevere.

The Patriots' game against the Steelers is Dec. 9, at 4:15 p.m. Let the games begin!

Mauers power Owls in opener

WENHAM, Mass. - Brothers Ryan Mauer (20 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals) and Brandon Mauer (15 points, 9 rebounds) led Westfield State to a 74-52 victory over Alfred (N.Y.) University in the opening round of the Gordon College Tip Off Tournament.

Westfield will play Gordon College in the championship game. Gordon defeated Mount St. Vincent (N.Y.) College, 78-59, in Friday's other game.

The Owls led 33-27 at halftime, shooting 38 pereent from the field. In the second half, they shot a sizzling 61 percent in outscoring Alfred, 41-25.

Ryan Mauer, one of Westfield's only two seniors, shot 12-for-15 from the foul line. Brandon Mauer - a sophomore transfer from LeMoyne College - was a perfect 5-for-5 from the field, including 4-for-4 from 3-point range. He played 25 minutes in a reserve role.

Sophomore forward Drew Pereira scored 13 points.

Alfred jumped out to a 19-9 lead with 11:32 to play in the first period as senior guard Garlen Patt (Nelson, Pa.) hit consecutive baskets to put the Saxons up early.

Westfield State chipped into the lead and used a 17-4 run over a five minute span to take the lead at 24-23 for its first lead of the contest. A three-point play by Brandon Mauer (Pittsfield, Mass.) put WSC up six, 29-23, before Ryan Mauer completed his own three-point play to make it a 32-23 game with just over two minutes remaining in the first half. Alfred cut the lead down to six, 33-27 just before the break.

In the second half, the Owls padded their lead as Pereira (Seekonk, Mass.) hit three consecutive lay-ups to put his team up 17, 51-34, with 11:38 to play. With 8:10 to play, the Saxons cut the lead to 14, 55-41 as freshman forward Ellis Walsh (Penfield, N.Y.) hit a pair of free-throws, but the Saxons would come no closer down the stretch as Westfield State cruised to the 74-52 win.

Westfield
State College

Paid Position Available – January 2008

Program Student Assistant
Special Programs Office

"Kids Night Out" Children's Program

Description:	Program Student Assistant position to assist with the administration and supervision of the "Kids Night Out" (evening sports/activity program for elementary school children) on campus.
Department:	Student Affairs: Special Programs, Community Service
Administrator:	Ken Magarian, Director (X 5406, kmagarian@wsc.ma.edu).
Number of hours per week:	Approximately 8+ hrs. /week, flexible. Office space/equipment provided.
Detailed responsibilities:	Core Duties: 1. Assist with publicity 2. Assist with student staff recruitment/training 3. Assist with registration (phone, email) 4. Assist with per date sign-in, general preparation and supervision assistance 5. Maintain data base of students and fees 6. Create, edit and maintain (where needed) program materials, flyers, brochure/guidelines 7. Other relevant duties for position where applicable
Qualifications:	Student could be seeking relevant academic degree (not a pre-requisite) with an interest in working with professional staff in/with a children's program, good oral/written and computer skills, punctual, and a friendly demeanor and personality are all strongly desired.
Interested Students:	Email letter of interest to Ken Magarian kmagarian@wsc.ma.edu – review of applicants to start immediately – hire for January 2008.

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Fri 12/07	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ely Wellness Center	Celtics vs. Toronto 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag BINGO 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 12/08	Intramurals 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Table Tennis Tournament 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Celtics vs. Chicago 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 12/09	Roman Catholic Mass 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Night Owls Concert: Dress Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dever Auditorium	Patriots vs. Pittsburgh 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Mon 12/10	Intramurals 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Campus Green	Night Owls Concert 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dever Auditorium	Alcohol Choices Education Interest Meeting 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Scanlon Living Room
Tues 12/11	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Christian Student Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Hoops for Heart 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Woodward Center
Wed 12/12	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Celtics vs. Sacramento 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Jessica MacMonegle-Ekness Voice Recital 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dever Auditorium
Thurs 12/13	Faculty, Staff and Student Craft Fair 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dining Commons	Intramurals 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Campus Green	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center

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BHE unanimously approves Evan Dobelle as Westfield State president

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the selection of Evan S. Dobelle of Pittsfield, Mass., as the new president of Westfield State College. Dobelle, president and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), began his new position at the Westfield, Mass, institution on Monday, Jan. 14.

John F. Flynn III, a member of the Westfield State College Board of Trustees, presented the board's recommendations to the BHE. The college selected Dobelle from an initial pool of 140.

Dobelle's nomination from Thomas J. Foley, chair of the trustees said, "Dr. Dobelle is a candidate of unmatched experience, outstanding credentials, and demonstrated commitment to the ideals and goals of Westfield State College."

"The references examined by the college's search committee and by the board, as well as the feedback we received from the campus community, express utmost confidence that Dr. Dobelle would provide the kind of collaborative leadership that will enhance Westfield State's already considerable strengths well into the future," the report said.

Dobelle's selection has received praise from several members of the higher education community.

"Evan has been a superb president of NEBHE," said Mary Cathcart, chairman of the board at NEBHE. "He is a persuasive and passionate advocate for higher education, and his leadership abilities and record of success at every institution he has led are respected throughout the nation."

"Evan is an experienced and effective leader who will bring new ideas and great energy to Westfield State as its new president," said Gaston Caperton, national president of The College Board, based in New York City.

U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal (D-Springfield) told The Republican newspaper of Springfield, Mass., that he has known Dobelle for a long time. "He has a first class intellect, great organization skills, and a terrific track record," he said.

Frederick W. Clark Jr., chairman of the BHE, also has praised Dobelle's record as an educator and community leader in The Republican. "Evan Dobelle is a solid choice as the next president of Westfield State College," he said. "His dynamic leadership quality, national stature, problem solving ability, and collaborative style make him a very welcome addition to the public higher education system in Massachusetts."



"The honor that the search committee and the board have given to me is one I accept with great passion and devotion to the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Westfield State," Dobelle said. "I look forward to listening carefully and providing leadership to our academic community. I also extend my gratitude to the New England Board of Higher Education which allowed me the honor to serve as their president these past three years."

Dobelle previously served as president of Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts, City College of San Francisco, Trinity College in Hartford and the University of Hawaii system. He has bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as an Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an MPA from Harvard University.

Before his career in education, Dobelle was mayor of Pittsfield from 1973 to 1976. He was also treasurer and deputy chair of the Democratic National Committee and national chairman of the Carter-Mondale Presidential Exploratory Committee.

He was chief of protocol of the United States with the rank of ambassador in the late 70s. His state political career also included serving as commissioner of Environmental Management and Natural Resources and executive assistant to the former U.S. Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Massachusetts).

Dobelle will be the 19th president of Westfield State College. The college was founded in 1838 as America's first co-educational teaching institution.

Top 10 things overheard on George W. Bush's trip to the Middle East

1. "Where can I buy one of them flying carpets?"

2. "Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. It's me, the guy who rammed democracy down your throats."

3. "Is the war over yet?"

4. "I know your name is Mahmoud, but I'm gonna call you Manny."

5. "Gas up Air Force One -- W. wants to go to Reno."

6. "Tell Cheney he doesn't have to call me everytime he has a heart attack."

7. "I wonder if Jackoway hammered out that interim agreement with Hamas."

8. "That's not a kitty, sir, it's a Sphinx."

9. "It's nice to finally put a face to the devistation I've created."

10. "My next stop -- the Middle West!"

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

Palestinian human rights expert to speak at Westfield State College

Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian, an internationally recognized human rights expert and criminologist, will offer insights on the challenges women face in war-torn parts of the world in a presentation at Westfield State College 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, in Scanlon Banquet Hall.

Kevorkian, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, will present "Palestine and Rwanda: A Feminist Critique of Legal Systems in War Zones." She is the first speaker in the college's spring Guest Lecture Series, which is free and open to the public.

"Her expertise has made her one of the most sought after scholars and activists in regard to resolving conflict in war zones," said Elise G. Young, associate professor of history, who arranged Kevokian's appearance.

Continued on Page 3

Westfield State hires new director of Public Safety

Westfield State College has hired Michael T. Nockunas of Worcester, Mass., for a one-year appointment as director of Public Safety. Nockunas, a retired master sergeant with the Connecticut State Police, began his college position in January.

Nockunas was selected for the temporary post after a college search to replace Paul Scannell, who retired as director of Public Safety this summer, resulted in no selections.

"We have completed our review of the first pool of candidates and no offers were made to any candidates," said Susan J. LaMontagne, interim vice president for Student Affairs and chair of the search committee. "Since the conclusion of this search, however, the college has been presented with the opportunity to fill this position with a one-year appointment, giving us time to re-evaluate and review the director position."

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Welcome Back!!



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LaMontagne said that, while the search resulted in several impressive candidates, the committee did not find a candidate that was felt to be a good fit for the college. Nockunas was not an applicant in the search process, she said.

Nockunas has significant law enforcement experience, including service in the Connecticut State Police for nearly 27 years. Within that role, his most recent command experience was as a master sergeant responsible for 97 State Police personnel and 60 local constables.

"He has experience in leadership and management, criminal investigations, domestic and international terrorism, team and task force development, and supervision and budgeting, LaMontagne said. "He has extensive program development experience, having been selected to lead the start-up of Connecticut's Urban Search and Rescue Team."

In addition, he has led homeland security maritime intelligence functions and overseen the day-to-day operations of all law enforcement functions. In addition to his law enforcement background, Nockunas has been an adjunct professor of criminal Justice at Manchester Community College in Connecticut.

LaMontagne expressed gratitude to Capt. Tony Casciano, who has led the department as interim director for several months. "I am thankful for his knowledge and service as interim director. Capt. Casciano has been assuming the responsibilities of the interim post, as well as continuing in his own role. We both look forward to having a full contingent of management level staff in the department," she said.

Clinton, Obama clash in debate

DAN BALZ AND SHAILAGH MURRAY
THE WASHINGTON POST

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The Democratic presidential front-runners clashed angrily in a debate Monday night, with Sen. Barack Obama accusing Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and her husband of repeatedly distorting his positions and Clinton asserting that Obama is trying to run away from his record.

Their sharp exchanges in the nationally televised forum underscored the Democrats' increasingly fierce competition five days before a pivotal primary test in South Carolina.

The debate turned personal almost from the outset, as Obama accused the Clintons of misrepresenting his comments about Ronald Reagan and the Republican Party's ideas, as well as his record on the Iraq war. "That is simply not true," he said.

Clinton responded forcefully: "It is very difficult having a straight-up debate with you, because you never take responsibility for any vote, and that has been a pattern."

With three major contests behind them in the 2008 campaign, there is still no clear front-runner for the Democratic nomination. South Carolina's primary, where more than half of the electorate is expected to be African American, will be the last big test before they head into Feb. 5, when more than half of the pledged national convention delegates will be chosen in nearly two dozen state contests.

In the debate, Clinton and Obama offered perhaps the most pointed criticisms of one another in the campaign. Obama went after Clinton during a discussion on economic stimulus by recalling his years as a community organizer in Chicago, adding: "While I was working on those streets watching those folks see their jobs shift overseas, you were a corporate lawyer sitting on the board at Wal-Mart."

And he brought up Bill Clinton's campaign surrogate role by chiding, "I can't tell who I'm running against sometimes."

Hillary Clinton, reacting to Obama's discussion of Republican ideas, struck back by saying: "I'm just reacting to the fact, yes, they did have ideas, and they were bad ideas. ... Bad for America, and I was fighting against those ideas when you were practicing law and representing your contributor (Tony) Rezko in his slum landlord business in inner-city Chicago."

Obama has been dogged by his connections to Rezko, an indicted businessman; he recently returned $40,000 in campaign contributions linked to Rezko.

Former Sen. John Edwards (N.C.) pursued Obama over his voting record in the Illinois legislature, seeking to turn the forum into a three-way brawl. But after being repeatedly sidelined by the back-and-forth, Edwards complained: "Are there three people in this debate, not two?"

After the initial tense exchanges Monday night, the three candidates went on to hold an extended discussion about racial inequality and gender on a day that began with all of them paying tribute to the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama was questioned about a remark by House Ways and Means Chairman Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., a Clinton supporter, that "black voters should not do what makes us feel good, but what's good for our great nation."

Obama responded: "I think Charlie's right in principle. Now, obviously, he and I differ in terms of what would be best for the nation." But later, he added: "I don't want us to get drawn into this notion that somehow this is going to be a race that splits along racial lines."

Obama was also asked whether he agreed with a statement by African American author Toni Morrison about Bill Clinton that "this is our first black president. Blacker than any actual black person who could ever be elected in our children's lifetime."

Obama paused for several moments, then responded: "Well, I think Bill Clinton did have an enormous affinity with the African American community, and still does. And I think that's well earned." He went on to add: "I would have to, you know, investigate more of Bill's dancing abilities, you know, and some of this other stuff before I accurately judge whether he was in fact a brother."

"Well, I'm sure that can be arranged," Clinton said, as the crowd laughed.

The Democratic race has been roiled by racial issues over the past two weeks, after statements made by both Clintons and a key surrogate that were interpreted by some black leaders as attempts to unfairly undermine Obama's candidacy.

A week ago, Black Entertainment Television founder Robert L. Johnson, a longtime ally of the Clintons, used his introduction of Hillary Clinton at an event in South Carolina to drop a veiled reference to Obama's previously acknowledged drug use as a young man. Johnson at first denied that was his intent but later apologized to Obama.

Tensions between the Obama and Clinton campaigns have risen sharply in the past few days, with Obama and his advisers outspoken in their criticism of the former president. In an interview Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America," Obama accused Bill Clinton of distorting some of his recent statements.

The candidate and his advisers are upset with statements that both Clintons made about Obama's position on the Iraq war, his campaign's efforts in the Nevada caucus and his remarks about Reagan.

"One of the things that we're going to have to do is to directly confront Bill Clinton when he's making statements that are not factually accurate," he said on ABC.

When excerpts of the interview leaked out Sunday night, Bill Clinton shot back at a Buffalo event that Obama "said President Reagan was the engine of innovation and did more, had a more lasting impact on America than I did. And then the next day he said, `In the '90s, the good ideas came out from the Republicans,' " he continued. "Which it'll be costly maybe down the road for him because it's factually not accurate."

Continued on Page 3

Editor's Desk



Welcome back everyone! I hope all of you had a fun and safe winter break.

This being my last semester before I graduate, I'm anxious about how fast the following months will pass. I'm excited to graduate, but I'm nervous because in May, I'm officially out in the "real world." I'm only 21. I feel like I'm too young to own my own apartment, have a full-time job...so much responsibility.

Many other seniors feel my pain, I'm sure. But a friend of mine told me yesterday, "We're only 21. Things will work themselves out how they are supposed to. There's no need to be freaking out at this point in our lives. There is still so much ahead of us." And she's right!

And with that attitude, I plan to cherish every moment of the next five months, taking my education seriously, while still having a lot of fun along the way :)

And I don't want to sound like a broken record, but you know this is all coming: WE NEED MORE WRITERS, COPY EDITORS, LAYOUT EDITORS, PHOTOGRAPHERS etc. Interested?! Stop by the office (Ely 248) or email us (TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu)

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Patriots going to the Superbowl!



Having to wake up early for classes again

Continued from Page 1

Kevorkian is the recipient of many prestigious awards and is on the Board of many human rights organizations, including the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. She is active in many projects and organizations in support of Palestinian women.

Kevorkian's main research interest focuses on women in conflict zones. She studies juxtapositions between ethnic, class, and gender issues and their interactions with formal and informal legal systems in the context of nation building.

Continued from Page 2

For Dbama, the Reagan issue represents a potential sore point in the nomination battle. Praising Reagan — even in an objective historical context — is not a recipe for success with liberal Democrats or African Americans, among whom Reagan was not popular.

The issue of race is also sensitive for Dbama. He needs strong black turnout to win South Carolina and create momentum as he heads into the 22-state showdown Feb. 5. But he has sought throughout his campaign not to make his a racially based candidacy.

Monday's debate was co-sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute and was aired nationally on CNN. Wolf Blitzer served as moderator, with questions from CNN correspondents Joe Johns and Suzanne Malveaux.

Dbama badly needs a victory in South Carolina after consecutive losses in New Hampshire and Nevada, and he will devote most of his campaign time this week to barnstorming the state.

Clinton, meanwhile, is scheduled to spend Tuesday and Wednesday campaigning in California, Arizona and New Mexico, all vital states in the Feb. 5 coast-to-coast mega-primary and all with significant Hispanic populations. Aides said Bill Clinton will cover for her in South Carolina on days when she is not in the state. He will spend much of his time wooing African American voters, who appear to be moving in large numbers to Dbama.

The three candidates had spent the morning together in Columbia, S.C., attending a Martin Luther King Jr. Day rally on the steps of the state Capitol.

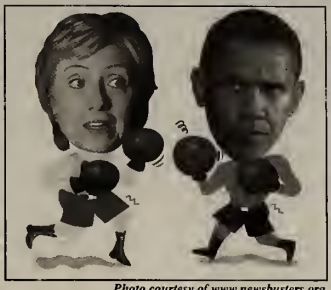


Photo courtesy of www.newsbusters.org

The rally drew supporters from all three camps, who cheered and waved placards as their candidates rose to speak. But the undercurrent was Dbama's candidacy, viewed in deeply emotional terms across the South. One by one, local speakers addressed the potential gravity of this Saturday's primary. Lonnie Randolph, president of the South Carolina NAACP, told the crowd: "You will determine the course of history for generations to come."

Clinton portrayed all three Democratic candidates — a woman, an African American and a Southerner — as groundbreaking figures. "That we stand here is a measure of Dr. King's life's work and his legacy," she said. Clinton singled out Dbama for special praise, calling him "an extraordinary young African American man, with so much to contribute."

But at a King Day service Monday morning in Atlanta, the Clinton-Dbama feud still simmered. At Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King had been co-pastor, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin spoke to a crowd of 2,000 that included Clinton's husband in a front pew. Franklin, an Dbama supporter, said the country is on the "cusp of turning the impossible into reality."

"Yes, this is reality," she said, "not fantasy or fairy tales." Clinton had drawn fire for calling Dbama's claim of consistent opposition to the Iraq war a "fairy tale" on the eve of the New Hampshire primary. According to news reports, when the crowd rose to cheer Franklin, Clinton remained seated, clapping politely.

Caffeine linked to miscarriages

Rob Stein
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Caffeine consumption by pregnant women can significantly increase the risk of miscarriage, according to new research.

The study, involving more than 1,000 pregnant California women, provides the most convincing evidence to date of such a link, the researchers said.

Research previously indicated an increased risk, but scientists were unsure whether those findings were affected by the fact that women having morning sickness might be less likely to drink caffeinated drinks, such as coffee, and less likely to have miscarriages.

"The relationship between caffeine intake and miscarriage was controversial," said De-Kun Li, a reproductive and perinatal epidemiologist at Kaiser Permanente in Dakland, Calif., who led the study. "The question has been whether this association is really due to caffeine itself or something else."

To answer that, Li and his colleagues studied 1,063 women in the San Francisco area early in their pregnancies. They questioned the women in detail about their beverage consumption and whether they were experiencing morning sickness.

Those women who consumed 200 milligrams of caffeine or more a day were about twice as likely to miscarry, the researchers report Monday on the Web site of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. That's about the amount of caffeine in two eight-ounce cups of coffee, five 12-ounce cans of soda or six cups of tea, Li said.

The findings are consistent with those of earlier studies, which have found an increased risk of miscarriage from daily consumption of about 150 to 300 milligrams of caffeine, Li said.

"But we went one step further in determining whether it was the caffeine itself or it was women changing their drinking pattern," he said. "My hope is our study will remove that uncertainty. I think this should put the argument to rest."

Based on the findings, Li recommended that women who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant minimize caffeine intake.

"If they have to drink caffeine-containing beverages, they should reduce the amount to one cup a day at the most," he said.

Tracy Flanagan, director of women's health at Kaiser Permanente, agreed.

"Avoiding (caffeine) may be even better. Consider switching to decaffeinated coffee and other decaffeinated beverages during your pregnancy," she said. "Learn to perk up instead with natural energy boosts, like a brisk walk, yoga stretches, snacking on dried fruits and nuts."

Staph spread linked to single strain

Delthia Ricks
Newsday

MELVILLE, N.Y. — The type of MRSA linked to infections in communities appears to be caused by a single strain that is spreading with extraordinary transmissibility, say federal scientists who are studying the sweep of resistant staph infections in recent years.

MRSA, shorthand for methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, has become so prevalent that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates an incidence of about 32 infections for every 100,000 people, a statistic deemed astounding last year in an editorial published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

MRSA is the subject of two federally sponsored investigations and a third smaller one, funded by the New York State Health Department, which is getting under way on Long Island. Understanding MRSA is important, medical investigators say, because of its capacity to thwart numerous classes of potent antibiotics.

Reporting in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which appears Tuesday online, microbiologist Frank DeLeo found that a strain of MRSA, dubbed USA300, is the so-called epidemic strain now underlying cases of the bacterial infection isolated in communities nationwide.

The MRSA strain found in gay San Francisco men recently is a subtype of USA300.

DeLeo said USA300 has numerous subtypes or "clones," all of which have emerged from the parent strain.

"We anticipate that new USA300 derivatives will emerge within the next several years and that these strains will have a wide range of disease-causing potential," said DeLeo, who conducts MRSA research at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' facilities in Hamilton, Mont.

MRSA infections usually look like boils or spider bites but are capable of transforming into painful abscesses when left untreated. In some instances the bacteria can remain confined to the skin, but in others the microbes can burrow into the body, triggering life-threatening infections. Hand hygiene is the primary way to avoid MRSA infections.

DeLeo's research, the first study to compare DNA fingerprints of the microbe from various parts of the country, traces the origins of community-acquired MRSA and resolves a heated scientific debate. His findings rule out the previously held notion that multiple strains of MRSA emerged randomly with similar characteristics.

Dr. Bruce Farber, who is receiving a $200,000 New York State grant to analyze hospital-acquired MRSA, said USA300 has been evolving for decades. Scientists, he said, are trying to stay a step ahead of the microbe.

"We all know that MRSA is an important, if not the most important hospital-acquired and community-acquired organism," Farber said. "It will always be challenging to stay ahead of the novel way that this organism is changing."

Farber and colleagues will study the highly infectious bacterium in nine intensive care units at five of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System's hospitals. He estimates the research will involve more than 5,000 patients.

MRSA was once a hospital-acquired organism. Now that it is spreading in communities; the bacteria are being brought into hospitals from the outside.

The second federal study, which is reported in the Journal of Immunology, reveals how MRSA eludes the human immune system, avoiding destruction by the voracious white blood cells called neutrophils whose job is to ingest and destroy microbes.

Even though neutrophils release hydrogen peroxide and hypochlorous acid -- a chemical similar to household bleach -- MRSA is learning to sense danger and escape harm.

Letter to the Editor

To whom it may concern,

Westfield State College is an amazing school filled with many diverse characters. Among the populace here, smokers are included. I am not out to tell anyone that they cannot smoke; however, I must protest the lack of respect for the rules of this campus. A sign posted outside Scanlon Hall reads, "Smoking is not permitted within 25 feet of any campus building. Please dispose of all smoking materials properly. Thank you!" Signs are posted on every building that read similarly, and everyone should be well aware of their presence. The rule is not in place without reason. There are, of course, reasons why such an inconvenience has been created for those who wish to indulge in this simple pleasure: smoking causes serious health affects to not only the smoker, but to other individuals around them, smoking also paints a rather distasteful picture of the campus and smoking affects a student's academic performance.

Cigarette smoke can cause more than 12 different forms of cancer and a sundry of over 23 different types of diseases. Anyone who has ever seen a pack of cigarettes knows that on the side, there exists a small warning label on each carton. The label was placed there by the Surgeon General, who, after extensive research and findings, claims that cigarette smoke may cause cancer among various other diseases, and that quitting now may ecrease the risk of contracting those diseases. Anyone may choose to smoke or not to, that is not the issue. The issue is that when someone smokes, the toxins from the cigarette is released into the surrouding air, and may then be inhaled by a number of innocent passing individuals. Secondhand smoke is just as lethal as smoking in and of itself. If one wishes not to smoke, but is forced to inhale toxic air, then the choice has been stripped from them.

I look around campus and see that a vast majority of the ground is covered in snow or ice: quite pretty if I may say so myself. One afternoon, I took a stroll to Davis Hall to visit some friends, and when I came upon the entrance, I looked down to the ground to prevent myself from slipping on any ice. I saw no ice, but I did see something that I found rather repulsive: the ground was littered with the decay of cigarette butts. When I visited the campus over the summer, I never saw any cigarette waste beleaguered around Courtney Hall, holding it hostage. I thought the campus was very nice, and it was minor, but part of my choice to attend college here at Westfield. Knowing then what I know now, my decision may have been swayed. For any prospective student, this may be a serious factor in deciding whether or not to come here. For the college, this means that some potential students may be lost due to this unappealing aspect.

College, in general, is about furthering knowledge so that one may set out into the world to obtain a better life. One part of obtaining that better life is by performing at one's best in academia. If one cannot perform at their best, then the chances of obtaining that better life decreases significantly. In one experiment conducted by Kimberly Yolton, a large group of youths were given conginitve tests. Because the interest of testing was environmental tobacco smoke's (ETS) affects on cognitive aptitude, a chemical surem known as cotinine was used to measure the levels of nicotine in the subjects. As reported in Indoor Environment Quality Strategies, the resullts concluded that "children with the highest serum cotinine levels received significantly lower performance scores on all four tests than did children in the lowest cotinine level." Basically, children with more nicotine in their systems performed at a lesser level than did the children with less nicotine in their system. In situations where a student smokes, or is constantly around smoke:

It can be concluded that cigarette smoking negatively affects the body and mind. Cigarette addiction causes intense cravings that can distract from daily activities. For students, this can mean distraction from studies or the inability to sit through long classes without taking a cigarette break. Allowing a smoking addiction to have seniority over classes and homework can lead to a decrease in the productivity of a student. This decrease of productivity will ultimately lead to a decrease in a student's GPA (Costa). - "Secondhand Smoke Affects Children's Thinking Ability."

Every student here at Westfield wants to do their best, and does not deserve to be held back from achieving their potential in any way whatsoever.

So the question is: what way(s) can Westfield State College still allow students and faculty the right to smoke on campus while protecting others from the health risks, preventing the campus from a deplorable look, while saving the students' academic careers and futures? One rather simple way would be to erect small buildings - shelters if you will - outside each of the academic buildings and dormitories. In this way, anyone who smokes can keep out of the weather, especially now in these cold conditions. Also, the remnants of the cigarettes will at least be contained to a certain area, and so it becomes easier, at any rate, to clean. In essence, the shelters will be a safe haven for anyone who smokes. The 25-foot rule will be enforced in such a way that no one is left in the cold, and everyone will be happy and stay healthy. A hospital in Berkshire County, Berkshire Medical Center, has already performed this task. In their system, smokers have a safe place to go where they are protected from the weather; non-smokers know not to go near those buildings, and in this way, their health is protected. Everyone is a winner in this solution, and so I suggest to the college to consider undertaking in a project similar to this.

With deepest hope for the future,
Jonathan Beals

Sara Charbonneau vs. wedding planning



Sara Charbonneau
Voice Columnist

I've been in a relationship with my boyfriend for almost as long as I can remember. From high school football and basketball games to high school graduation, and from long distance colleges and long phone conversations, to just recently moving in together, somehow, and by some sort of miracle, we have done it. With only five months until graduations from Westfield State and WPI, 800 mile road trips to visit my parents in North Carolina, and burned dinners are becoming just small pieces to the puzzle that have been Brendan and Sara for the past five years. Since day one, I knew that Brendan would someday be the guy at the end of the aisle and on year four, month 11, day 25, he made it official. Every girl dreams of the moment it will happen, and on Dec. 22, 2007, it happened to me. Brendan and I finally, and officially, got engaged.

For those of you who know me, my dream since I was 15 has been to be a wedding planner. I would buy bridal magazines just to imagine the color schemes, and watch "Bridezilla" and "Whose Wedding is it Anyway" to get inspiration. And finally, I get to do it for real.

As I sat in my apartment in Worcester, staring down at the tidal wave of bridal magazines that had suddenly overtaken my coffee table, I was hit by a rush of stress like a freight train. Venues, vendors, midterms, color schemes, flower girls, term papers, homework ... how was I going to plan a wedding AND finish up my last semester in college?!! I ran to my phone and called Kelly, my MOH (Maid of Honor, for those not fluent in wedding lingo) weeping, asking how I was going to get everything done. Kelly, just having had her wedding in June, and was still in college, did what every MOH is trained to do. "Sara," she said, "Calm the eff down. You aren't getting married for another 17 months. You have plenty of time."

Huh. She makes a good point. I guess that's one thing I can already give for advice to those getting ready to get hitched – give yourself PLENTY of time!! It honestly makes me gag thinking about HAVING to think about centerpieces and aisle runners, in between quizzes and exams and my bankruptcy paralegal job. I'd be trying on my graduation cap and gown in between trying on wedding dresses and veils. I shudder at the thought. It's like one of those dreams where you make it all the way to school before you realize you're naked– one of mine is walking down the aisle in my cap and gown. I think future grandkids would be confused by my choice of wardrobe.

My second issue occurred soon after the first, which has been the task of finding a location to host the reception. Brendan and I made the decision to get married where we live, not where we grew up, so finding a venue has been ridiculous. The first place we checked out, which shall remain nameless unless you speak to me in person since I don't want to offend anyone, was friggin' horrific.

Brendan, thank God, bought me a TomTom GPS system for Christmas, and we decided it would be nice to use on our quest to find this venue. I had gotten the MapQuest directions and compared them with the directions TomTom gave me, and they seemed to match up. So Brendan and I tooled along, when suddenly TomTom screamed out that in 800 yards, we had to turn. I checked the MapQuest directions, and yup, we had to turn. But where? The only street we could see coming up was a dirt road, leading up to someone's house. TomTom was tweakin out so we turned up this tiny, one way dirt road leading up, and finally around, this random house, crossing a major street, and onto a paved, winding road leading to the venue. OK, so if our guests didn't get LOST first, then we'd be all set. And then we saw the farm equipment.

Yes. Farm equipment. And not just regular farm equipment. Farm equipment painted in bright, glossy, neon colors. Not kidding. At this point, Brendan just turned and looked at me. I know the "What in God's name have you gotten me into?" face, and I was getting it. So we got out of the car, walked to the front door, immediately smelled cow poo (maybe it was my mind playing tricks on me, but ick) and headed up a set of stairs approximately two feet wide (hopefully our guests aren't scared of small spaces). The woman who greeted us was very pleasant, but led us into the ballroom we would be holding the reception in. Ew. She sat us down at a table covered in a dirty white linen, while she explained that there had been a reception there the night before and she decided that a dirty linen would look nicer than a bare table (this is what she told us and again, not kidding). The walls were dark and dingy, and the carpet was torn. The chairs we sat in were a nice 1984 mauve pleather, and the dance floor was scuffed up and scratched. Gorgeous.

So this woman then starts to discuss with us menu options, payment plans, centerpiece ideas (she had nice rusted, excuse me, RUSTIC, lanterns to use) and some really stunning faux bright purple rose petals to use on the cake table. Inside, I died a little. This was NOT going to be where I was going to be spending one of the most important days of my life. Then she turned to the gift sleigh.

This sleigh was broken. It was splinter happy. It looked like the lazy kid in shop class just nailed a few pieces of wood together and called it a sleigh. But hey, we could use some of those phenomenal rose petals to dress it up!!

Anyways, being engaged for these past few weeks has certainly opened my eyes to getting married, and how many decisions I'm going to have to come up with in the next 16 months. And I'm guessing it's going to be the time of my life. Because really, it's not about finding the perfect place or the best flowers or the coolest DJ. It's about getting married to my best friend, and there's nothing better in the world that I can think of than that.

WELCOME BACK COMMUTERS



FREE

Coffee & Hot Chocolate
Wednesday, Jan. 30th
Quixote's/Wilson Hall
8:00-10:30AM

COMMUTERS

ICE SKATING SPECIAL

Amelia Park Ice Rink

$2 Includes Skate Rental with WSC ID

Monday thru Friday
12:00 - 1:00 PM

Starts
Wed. January 23rd
Through
Fri. March 7th

Amelia Park Ice Rink – 568-2503
21 S. Broad St, across from the
Big Y, and Post Office –Westfield

CAMPUS CENTER ACTIVITIES

January 25, February 22, March 28, May 2 @ 11:00 p.m. –1:00 a.m.
Brown Bag BINGO

January 26, February 9, April 4 @ 7:00 p.m.
Card & Game Night (Food coupons for the winners)

January 31, February 28, March 27, April 24 @ 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
Karaoke Night

February 2, 23, April 12, March 1, 22, & 29 @ 7:00 p.m.
WSKB Band and Talent Night

February 6 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Athletics Media/Press Conference-Learn what's new in Athletics/Intremurals

February 8, 29 & March 21 @ 7:00 p.m.
Table Tennis Tournament (Food coupons for the winners)

March 5 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Athletics Media/Press Conference-Learn what's new in Athletics/Intramurals

April 2 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Athletics Media/Press Conference-Learn what's new in Athletics/Intramurals

- "Old Time TV Shows" - Thursday mornings (11:30a.m.-1:30p.m.) Ely Main Lounge.
- Saturday is "Gaming Day" on the Big Screen. Starting at 10:00 a.m. Bring your game system, X-Box, PS 2/3, etc., and game with your fellow students in the Ely Main Lounge.
- Racquetball Ladder Competition, Saturday and Sunday on the racquetball court, starting at 6:00 p.m. Must sign up for the competition at the Campus Center or Wellness Center information desks.
- Ski Trips Coming—Watch for announcements

College discount

THE WASHINGTON POST

Yale University is following Harvard's good example in tapping into its large endowment to make college more affordable. Students and their families will benefit. But they'll be a lucky few: The initiative, while certainly commendable, will do little to help students nationally and may even have the unintended consequence of hurting those most in need.

Yale's program will cut the average cost of going to college in New Haven by more than 50 percent for families with financial need, beginning next fall. The sharp increase in financial aid takes an expansive view of families who should be helped. Those earning less than $60,000 annually won't have to make any contribution while households with annual incomes as high as $200,000 will see significant savings. For instance, a family with two children in college receiving financial aid with $180,000 in income and $200,000 in assets will be billed $11,650 total instead of $22,300. Harvard unveiled a similar expansion of its financial aid last month.

Yale President Richard C. Levin candidly admitted that one spur for the new program was pressure from Congress. Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, is considering a proposal that would require the well-heeled institutions of higher education to spend a minimum percentage of their endowments each year. No doubt places such as Yale, with an endowment of $22.5 billion, and Harvard, with an endowment of $35 billion, have the ability to do more to help families with the cost of education. Harvard's endowment grew by $6 billion last year alone, and its new policy will cost $22 million. That, as the New America Foundation pointed out in its higher-education blog, is about one-third of 1 percent of the growth in the endowment. The group noted that Congress just spent $6 billion to cut in half interest rates for undergraduate loans over the next five years — nationwide.

Other elite private universities are rushing to follow the direction set by Harvard and Yale, and that can only be good news for college goers. Still, that will do little to help the more than 75 percent of higher education students who go to public colleges and universities, most of which don't have huge endowments. It's worrisome that some see an adverse trickle-down effect from the Ivy League's new generosity: In order to compete for top students from middle- to upper-class families, some colleges may shift scholarship money away from those most in need. Already, in response to Harvard, some flagship schools have said they'll have to increase fundraising for merit scholarships.

Adding to the pressure is an expected economic downturn that could well see diminished state support for higher education. Levin is right to argue that instead of criticizing his institution and Harvard for taking steps in the right direction, states should be re-examining their own practices.

Why caucus?

THE WASHINGTON POST

Imagine an election system that doesn't permit soldiers serving overseas to cast their votes for president. Imagine a system that requires some voters to choose between following the dictates of their faiths or participating in an election. Imagine a system that disenfranchises voters who are hospitalized, or scheduled to work, or out of town on the day and time set for the election. You don't need much imagination for this, because America has just such a system and is using it to help pick the next president. It's called caucuses, and it is the way that citizens express their presidential preferences in more than a dozen states.

Consider the Nevada caucuses set for Saturday morning. Saturday is celebrated as the Sabbath by Jews and Seventh-day Adventists. Synagogues hold Shabbat services on Saturday mornings and, perhaps more important, Orthodox Jews are prohibited from driving or doing other activity that could be viewed as work, which would include participating in caucuses. As the Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, president of the Interfaith Alliance, put it, "In a country that values religious liberty, no person should ever be forced to choose between practicing their religion and participating in their democracy." This is not a hypothetical problem; Nevada has one of the fastest-growing Jewish populations in the country.

There are legitimate considerations that could prompt states to choose to conduct their presidential nominee selection process by caucuses rather than primaries. Caucuses are party-building events designed not only to express presidential preferences but to hash out party platforms. They can create a sense of belonging to a community. But these advantages seem more theoretical than real — most caucus-goers do not stick around to debate the fine points of platforms — and in any event they are outweighed by the all-too-real drawbacks of a system that cannot help but disenfranchise some would-be voters.

The primary calendar is in need of a dramatic overhaul. The fairness — and future — of the caucus system should be a part of that debate.

'Cloverfield' excites, nauseates

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: C

The wait is over for anyone who has been dying to know what happens in the J.J. Abrams produced thriller "Cloverfield." Ever since the teaser aired before "Transformers" last summer, viral sites and rumors have been ratcheting up audiences' anticipation. So, what is it? It is exactly what I expected based on the trailers... only more nauseating (I'll get to that later).

As the ads indicate, Cloverfield (whose name is completely irrelevant) is about a creature attacking New York City, but what makes it fresh is the perspective through which this worn premise is shown. The entire film is shot using a handheld camera being carried around by our, for lack of a better term, narrator. It opens with a going away party in which the camera plays a role recording testimonials and goodbyes and later snooping on guests. The first 20 minutes or so of the film is just footage of this party, which gets us acquainted with all the characters.

Then, what appears to be an earthquake strikes and the guests run up to the roof for a look. Debris begins raining down upon them and we're off. The group struggles to get out of Manhattan safely and in the process only gets small glimpses of the big apple's destructor. News clips and interaction with authorities keep giving the characters and audience tantalizing bits and pieces of information but the big picture is never clear and you're always left wanting to know more.

I was nervous about the special effects given the oft shown Statue of Liberty scene, which is far from seamless. But every other effect in the film is much, much better integrated and it ends up working really well. What little we see of the creature is, at times, jaw dropping.



Photo courtesy of http://www.iwatchstuff.com/2007/07/26/cloverfield-poster.jpg

There are many aspects of the film that work: It never becomes melodramatic thanks to the cameraman's unrealistic but much appreciated one-liners. The sci-fi monster elements are there without the usual forced exposition from a leading scientist or epiphanies about finding the creature's weakness. The whole film leaves you wondering and wanting more because the story telling is so clever (such as the news clips and the flashbacks on the tape). And there are obviously some really intense sequences that stand out. The film being shot completely handheld, in addition to making the film fresh and innovative, adds to that intensity.

However, in addition to being the film's gimmick, the handicam becomes the film's major drawback... and it's a big one. I left the theater two hours prior to writing this review and I am still feeling the effects of the headache I walked out with. Motion sickness is inevitable. Even at 90 minutes, the shakiness of the camera and the artificially induced whiplash is simply brutal and too much for most moviegoers to take. The film makes an effort after every hectic scene to take a respite and hold the damn thing still for a couple of minutes but it's not enough. Not only does it not succeed in that regard but it slows down the film. Again, the film is only 90 minutes but it feels much longer than that and I anticipated (and was hoping for) it to end sooner than it did.

The handicam is the film and I respect that. I understand that it is what makes it unique and that's what makes the film work. But in the end it becomes too much. I would have preferred the film to occasionally have an unrealistically steady shot and joke about the guy having a tripod with him, than have it be so realistic that I leave the theater with a physical ailment. There should have been more consideration for the audience.

Many, many people will dislike the film for this reason, which is perfectly understandable. Does a less than 90-minute film that induces migraines really constitute getting your money's worth at 10 or more bucks a pop? Well, if you can get passed that initial obstacle you'll catch glimpses of a riveting science fiction thriller under all the blurriness.

BOTTOM LINE: Essentially "Cloverfield" is exactly what you'd expect: A thriller about a monster attacking New York shown completely through a handheld camera. And while there's some good (or even great) stuff in here, the nauseating camera puts a damper on most of its accomplishments.

For full reviews of all the films you might have seen (or missed) over break, plus a list of the Top Ten Films of 2007, visit: http://www.IAgreeWithTheMovieDude.com/

Brown tries to grow up

James Dinh
A&E Columnist

In an industry that is constantly revolved around some kind of image, it was impossible not to see the parallels Chris Brown displayed when he debuted in 2005 toward that of Usher and even Michael Jackson. His captivating but not yet mature voice crooned for his adoring female fans while his command on the stage caught eye. Back with his sophomore effort, "Exclusive," Chris Brown attempts to widen his fan base from little 12-year-old Jennifer to that of her 22-year-old sister.

The first single, "Wall to Wall," produced by Swizz Beatz, is most noted for its video game sounding style and at most, a boast about his female admirers. The track takes stance but doesn't catch the fire that Brown's "Run It" did. T-Pain helps out on second single, "Kiss, Kiss." It's quirky, trippy, and repetitive but nonetheless fun. The single went to number one on Billboard's Hot 100, where it held strongly on top for three weeks.

Sounding like something out of '90s R&B, "Take You Down" follows a simplistic formula that is nothing short of a classic slow jam. "It ain't my first time but baby girl we can pretend / Hey lets bump and grind girl tonight will never end," he sings on the bridge. And it's like when the impressionable son tries emulating his father. It's cute, but nothing more. Stargate recycles Beyonce's "Irreplaceable" for the 183,029 time this year for the rushed third single, "With You." Adding an extra hand clap just doesn't make that damn beat any different. "Nice" features a guest spot from The Game, which follows Brown, speed singing his way through an edgy, syncopated, Scott Storch beat that samples Stacee Adams' club smash "The Last Call."

Brown also reminiscences his way through the depressing, apologetic ballad "Damage," while on the playful "Hold Up," he struts and flirt his way over a frenetic bass line with the guidance from Big Boi of Outkast. Other collaborations on the disk include Lil' Wayne, will.i.am and Kanye West. And as one listens, it becomes apparent that Chris just does best when sticking to what he knows rather than trying to emulate an older image most likely pushed by his PR. "Exclusive" is contemporary with a few shining gems here and there but in the end Brown's self love is redundant while his constant display of "growth" just comes off unconvincing.



Photo courtesy of http://chris-brown-online.net/gallery/albums/uploads/promos_exclusive/normal_001.jpg

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

At 18-0, Patriots are one win from perfect ending

MARK MASKE
THE WASHINGTON POST

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — After a cold and blustery afternoon during which they gave a far from perfect performance, the New England Patriots now stand where no NFL team has been before. They won their 18th game of the season without a loss, beating the San Diego Chargers in the AFC championship game and moving within one victory of being anointed the greatest football team in history.

The Patriots will play the New York Giants, who beat the Packers in the NFC championship game, 23-20, on an even colder night in Green Bay, Wis. — in Super Bowl XLII on Feb. 3 in Glendale, Ariz. A victory would give the Patriots their fourth NFL championship in seven seasons and would enable them to join the 1972 Miami Dolphins as the only undefeated teams in league history. "There was history on the line," linebacker Tedy Bruschi said after the Patriots' 21-12 victory over the Chargers on a 23-degree afternoon. "We recognize it, we acknowledge it."

Those Dolphins went 17-0; the Patriots would be 19-0 with a Super Bowl win, and they have trounced their opponents far more convincingly than the '72 Dolphins did. "It's been one week at a time for us all year," Patriots Coach Bill Belichick said. "It really has. I think there will be a time and place to sit back and reflect on it all. For right now, I'm just proud of our team for winning this game and having a chance to go play for the NFL title."



Photo courtesy of www.espn.go.com

This game wasn't a classic for the Patriots. Quarterback Tom Brady threw three interceptions and wide receiver Randy Moss wasn't a factor. But the defense toughened at the right times, limiting the Chargers to four field goals.

"We had a few letdowns or times where we didn't play our best," Brady said. "But we overcame them; 18-0 is a great feeling."

Confetti littered the Gillette Stadium field, but the Patriots kept their locker room celebration fairly modest and even fans were relatively restrained. Winning has become the pro sports norm in these parts. The Boston Red Sox are baseball's reigning World Series champions, and the Celtics have returned to pro basketball's elite this season.

But while the two World Series wins by the Red Sox in recent years after their long drought and the return to prominence by the Celtics have been, for the most part, feel-good stories, the Patriots' latest championship run has had a more sinister feel to it.

They have become the NFL team that fans in other cities love to hate. In September, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell fined Belichick $500,000 and the Patriots $250,000 and stripped a first-round draft choice from the franchise next spring after the team was found to be videotaping the play signals of the New York Jets' coaches in the opening game of the season at Giants Stadium, in violation of league rules. The Patriots were decried as cheaters, and analysts raised the issue of how much the accomplishments of Belichick and the team had been tainted. The New York Post took to putting an asterisk alongside the Patriots in its NFL standings, with the explanation "caught cheating."

Belichick kept his head down and simply worked and no-commented his way through the scandal, and his players closed ranks around him and defended their coach — and the team's legacy. The Patriots took out their anger and frustration on opponents, winning by margins like 52-7 against the Washington Redskins and 56-10 against the Buffalo Bills. That led to charges that they were unnecessarily running up the score to embarrass foes. The Patriots simply shrugged it off and kept winning.

With the most imposing offense in NFL history this season, the Patriots set the all-time scoring record. Brady broke the single-season mark for touchdown passes; Moss set the record for touchdown catches. The Patriots were challenged in four games but dusted off their championship resolve to win with fourth-quarter comebacks. On Sunday, they leaned on their defense and that old big-game toughness.

"To me, 52-7 wasn't something I was used to," Bruschi said. "These are the games we're used to."

Bruschi said the pressure of chasing an unbeaten record was alleviated after the regular season, since every team faces the same win-or-go-home predicament in the playoffs. Linebacker Mike Vrabel agreed.

"We left that back in the regular season," Vrabel said. "We've won two games in the playoffs. ... We're going to try to just continue to do this thing and not get all carried away with the undefeated season. ... I know guys are excited to be here, to be AFC champions, but we've still got work to do and we've still got a game to win."

Westfield wins at Worcester, 67-49

WORCESTER - Ryan Mauer and Dave Jachnig scored 21 and 20 points, respectively, and Matt Badjo nearly posted a double-double with 13 rebounds and eight points to pace Westfield State to a 67-49 victory at Worcester State on Saturday, Jan. 19.

The loss drops the Lancers to 7-8 (0-2 MASCAC), while Westfield State improves to 11-4 (1-1 MASCAC).

Westfield State led at the break, 32-27, as Worcester State committed 14 first-half turnovers. The Lancers outshot the Owls from the field, 42.9% to 36.7%, but gave up the all six more times to go along with Westfield State garnering 10 offensive rebounds.

Worcester State was led by seniors Will Spont (Bellingham, MA) and Ryan Frassica (Brockton, MA) who each tallied nine points in the first stanza. Westfield State was paced by Jachnig and Ryan Mauer with nine points apiece.

Ryan Testagrossa (Athol, MA) opened the second half with a jumper to cut the deficit to three points, but the Lancers would get no closer. Westfield slowly built its second-half lead and ended up with its largest margin to end the game.

Worcester State finished with 25 turnovers on the afternoon, preventing it from making a serious second-half run. The Lancers also struggled from the line shooting 6-of-13, while the Owls enjoyed a 22-of-27 performance from the charity stripe.

Spont finished with 17 points followed by Frassica with 11. Mauer and Jachnig finished one-two on the Owls' scoring sheet with 21 and 20 points. Badjo wreaked havoc all day on the boards with his career-tying high of 13 boards.

Worcester State returns to the hardwood on Tuesday when it travels to Framingham State to take on the Rams in conference action. Westfield State will host MASCAC foe Salem State Tuesday evening as well.

Black History Month 2008 Schedule

Date	Program	Time & Location
2/4	Informational Table: "Why Do We Do Black History Month", Mr. Trevor Hodge, Staff Associate, Academic Achievement Center	12 p Ely Main Lounge
2/4	Musical Performance with Jazz Vocalist "Montenia"	9 p Ely Main Lounge
2/5	Video Presentation & Discussion: "The Black Press Soldiers Without Swords", Dr. John Paulmann, Professor, Communication Department	7 p Ely Main Lounge
2/7	Black History Month Dinner Pork chops, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, collard greens, baby carrots, catfish/jambalaya rice, peach & cherry cobbler, red velvet cake, sweet tea	4 p Dining Commons
2/13	Video Presentation & Discussion: "February One", Dr. Frederick Harling, Professor, History Department	7 p Ely Main Lounge
2/19	Video Presentation & Discussion. "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes", Dr. Cerron Pickron, Dean, Academic Achievement Center	7p Ely Main Lounge
2/20	Video Presentation & Discussion: "Hughes' Dream Harlem", Dr. Kamal Ali, Assistant Professor, World Languages, Multicultural, and Gender Studies Department	7 p Ely Main Lounge
2/26	Video Presentation & Discussion: "What's Race Got To Do With It?", Dr. Margot Hennessy, Assistant Professor, World Languages, Multicultural, and Gender Studies Dept.	7 p Ely Main Lounge
2/27	Video Presentation & Discussion. "Revolution '67", Dr. Stanley Jackson, Professor, Psychology Department	7 p Ely Main Lounge
2/28	Third World Organization: "Discover Africa Banquet", BBQ chicken, fried chicken, Spanish rice, mac & cheese, candied yams, cornbread, corn, cake & cookies	7 p Scanlon Banquet Hall
3/4	Multimedia Performance The Langston Hughes Project: "Ask Your Mama Twelve Moods For Jazz"	9 p Ely Main Lounge

Sponsored by: Departments of Academic Achievement Center, Academic Affairs, Campus Activities Board, Campus Center, Communication, English, History, Media & Technical Services, Minority Affairs, Psychology, Sociology and Social Work, Public Affairs, Residential Life, Sodexho Dining Services, Student Services, Third World Organization and World Languages, Multicultural, and Gender Studies.

All events are open to the public and free of admission except for the BHM Dinner ($9.25) on February 7th & the Discover Africa Banquet on February 28th ($8.00).
For additional information, please call (413) 572-5442

Westfield State College

Welcome back students & staff!!
From,
The Voice staff

Fri 01/25	Boxing Club Workout 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parenzo Hall Dance Studio	Comedian: Rob O'Reilly 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 01/26	PS3 Challenge (bring your games) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Football Meeting 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Woodward "TJF" Student Lounge	Card & Game Night 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 01/27	Sunday Mass 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Center Center Chapel	YMCA Track 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Woodward Classroom 120	Racquetball Ladder Competition 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Racquetball Court
Mon 01/28	Body Toning 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ely Wellness Center	Spring Break Boot Camp 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ely Wellness Center	Kickboxing and Weight Training 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ely Wellness Center
Tues 01/29	Spring Break Boot Camp 7:00 a.m to 7:30 a.m. Ely Wellness Center	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wooodward Center	Christian Student Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Interfaith Center
Wed 11/30	Pilates Class 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Ely Wellness Center	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Welcome Back Movie Night 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Thurs 11/31	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. SGA Conference Room	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Karaoke Night 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | February 1, 2008 | Issue XIV

Top 10 Barack Obama campaign promises

1. "To keep the budget balanced, I'll rent the Situation Room for sweet sixteens."

2. "I will double your tax money at the craps table."

3. "Appoint Mitt Romney Secretary of Lookin' Good."

4. "If you bring a gator to the White House, I'll wrassle it."

5. "I'll put Regis on the nickel."

6. "I'll rename the tenth month of the year 'Barack-tober.'"

7. "I won't let Apple release the new and improved iPod the day after you bought the previous model."

8. "I'll find money in the budget to buy Letterman a decent hairpiece."

9. "Pronounce the word nuclear, nuclear."

10. "Three words: Vice President Oprah."

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

College bookstores battle with websites for textbook buyers

BOSTON, MA – The price of college textbooks has increased at nearly four times the rate of inflation in the past decade, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. With college textbook costs equivalent to about 25 percent of public college tuition, students are taking matters into their own hands and using the internet to search for the best prices.

These students are increasingly using online textbook comparison shopping services to save money on textbooks. StudentMarket.com, which helps students quickly find the lowest book prices among several competing online bookstores, has been saving college students money on textbooks for well over a decade. StudentMarket.com's service offers price comparisons on over 1.6 million new and used books. The consumer types in the ISBN, title, or author and instantly has the information to make an informed decision. Consumers can check prices, availability and shipping costs, saving valuable time and money.

According to recent data available from the National Association of College Stores, 23 percent of all college textbooks sold in 2005 were purchased online, up from 16 percent in 2003. While college students today are comfortable buying everything online, they become even more likely to do so as they become upperclassmen: freshmen buy 21 percent of textbooks online, while graduate students buy 29 percent.

The newest additions to the online textbook landscape are sites that rent textbooks, but these services have several issues that makes them less convenient than buying textbooks. High overhead make it nearly impossible to carry all the textbook titles that students need, making these services feasible mainly for students taking core liberal arts courses. Upperclassmen and graduate students would find few of their required books on these sites.

According to The College Board, which tracks college pricing trends, college students spend an average of $940 a year on textbooks and supplies. So what can a student do to cut those costs?

* Use online textbook price comparison services such as www.StudentMarket.com.

* Buy used textbooks. Although they can be found at the campus bookstore, you'll typically find a greater, more affordable selection through an online textbook price comparison service.

* Keep the textbooks in good shape so you can sell them online when the semester ends.

* Consider older editions if there are no significant updates to the newer versions.

Pace University sophomore Steven Samuels says "textbooks can be really expensive unless you shop around. The best and fastest way to do that is online."

"Students looking for the best price and most convenient way to shop are likely to buy their textbooks online," said Oren Milgram, Director of Student Affairs for StudentMarket.com. "We are helping to change the rules of business for new and used textbook shopping. Instead of the campus bookstore saying, 'Here's what we have to sell, who wants to buy it?' Now, students are saying 'Here's what I want to buy, who wants to sell it to me at the lowest price?'"

Founded in 1995, StudentMarket.com sells furniture, provides information for current and prospective college students on credit and higher education financing, as well as provides a textbook comparison shopping service. StudentMarket.com has served the needs of students at more than 1,800 colleges and universities nationwide. In August, the company launched a completely redesigned site, the largest redesign in the company's history, featuring over 100,000 products. StudentMarket.com expects to reach more than 1,000,000 students over the next 12 months.

The winter blues can catch us all

ERYN CARTER
VOICE REPORTER

The winter blues. Everyone has heard of it; many suffer from it. The sadness, exhaustion, lack of motivation and in some people, weight gain. It can be one of the most menacing things to deal with during the winter, on top of what seems like the never-ending snow. College students are often the victims as the days become shorter, colder and (spending time outside in the sun becomes less.) But what actually is this debilitating illness?

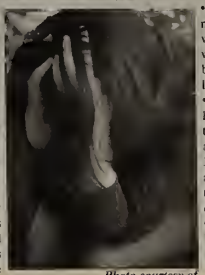


Photo courtesy of www.abc.net.au/reslibi/200709/r174979_663932.jpg

A person may confuse this profound mental illness with a simple dislike for the winter, but this disorder is known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or more commonly known as S.A.D. As found on a site discussing many different types of mental disorders, the Northern County Psychiatric Associates of Baltimore, MD explained how this common disorder is seen in the DSM-IV, which is the American Psychiatric Associations diagnostic manual as a subtype of a major depressive episodes. While it has a basic name, it's a serious mental health issue.

About 70 to 80 percent of those who suffer are women and it rarely affects those who are under 20 years-old, but it is possible. While it is more common in women, men who experience it suffer much more severe symptoms. Research has also found that those who live in the northern Hemisphere are more susceptible to developing S.A.D due to the cold weather and the lack of daylight during the winter months (Mayo Clinic).

In order to treat such a disorder, there are a few options. The two most popular are light therapy and medications. Light therapy, which is either done by special lights that project UV rays that can be placed throughout your home or through a light box. The lights mimic outdoor light and lift your mood. Medications are more frequently used to help balance out the serotonin levels in your brain. While many only need it to help them to get through the winter, just as many need it year round.

Having such a disorder can be hard to cope with but here are a few pieces of advice to keep it at bay.

- Stick to your treatment plan
- Let as much natural light into wherever you are whether it's your bedroom or your living room
- Get outside: Research shows that those who are outside for 30 minutes a day are much happier than those that don't
- Exercise regularly: It will help relieve stress and anxiety, and it will release endorphins which help to lift your mood
- Take care of yourself: Sleep enough and eat well. Put time in your day to relax. Make sure that you don't turn to alcohol or drugs when stress sets in
- Socialize: Your friends will keep you sane

This is a serious disorder, where many suffer unknowingly and do not get the help they need. If you have any of the following symptoms, do not hesitate to call the Counseling Center on campus to get help.

Relief is on the way!

Symptoms

- Depression. Hopelessness and/or Anxiety
- Loss of Energy
- Social Withdrawal
- Oversleeping
- Loss of interest in activities you used to enjoy
- Appetite changes, esp. for foods high in carbs
- Weight gain
- Difficulty concentrating and processing information

Information provided by www.mayoclinic.com

Check out Jimmy O's Cooking Corner on Page 4



Inside

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A&E page 6
Sports page 7

Date changed for Palestinian human rights talk at Westfield State

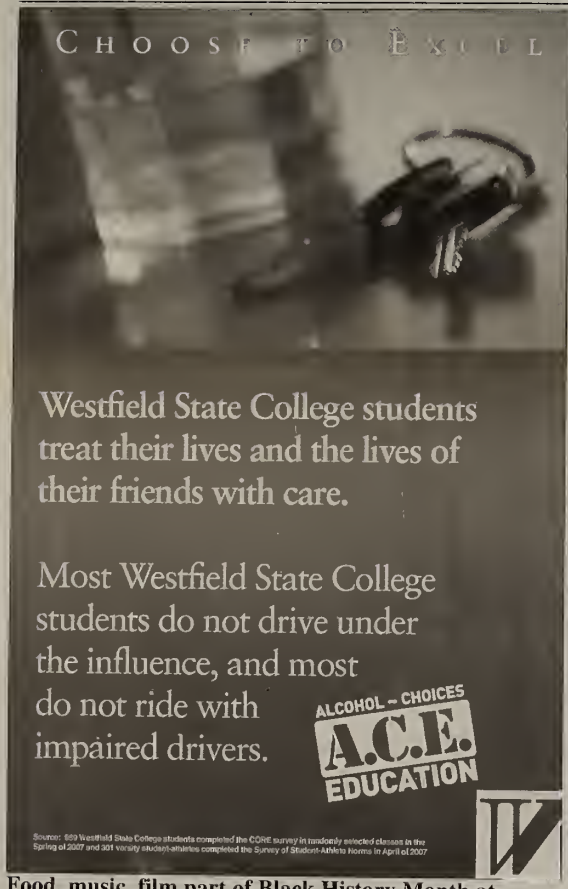
A presentation by Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian, an internationally recognized human rights expert and criminologist, has been changed to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in the Garden Room at 333 Western Avenue at Westfield State College. The event was originally set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7.

Kevorkian, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, will offer insights on the challenges women face in war-torn parts of the world in her talk, "Palestine and Rwanda: A Feminist Critique of Legal Systems in War Zones." The presentation is part of the college's spring Guest Lecture Series, which is free and open to the public.

"Her expertise has made her one of the most sought after scholars and activists in regard to resolving conflict in war zones," said Elise G. Young, associate professor of history, who arranged Kevokian's appearance.

Kevorkian is the recipient of many prestigious awards and is on the Board of many human rights organizations, including the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. She is active in many projects and organizations in support of Palestinian women.

Kevokian's main research interest focuses on women in conflict zones. She studies juxtapositions between ethnic, class, and gender issues and their interactions with formal and informal legal systems in the context of nation building.



Food, music, film part of Black History Month at Westfield State College

Several Black History Month events, including dinners, music, and films are scheduled throughout February at Westfield State College. All events are open to the public and most are free.

Events begin Feb. 4, with an exhibit, "Why do We Do Black History Month?", presented by Trevor Hodge of the Academic Achievement Center at noon in the Ely Campus Center main lounge. That evening, jazz vocalist Montenia will perform at 9 p.m. in the Ely main lounge.

The annual Black History Month dinner will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. Feb. 7 in the dining commons. The meal is free to students with a meal plan and $6.25 for others. The dinner features fried chicken, pork chops, collard greens, cherry and peach cobbler, velvet cake and sweet tea.

Continued on Page 3

Editor's Desk



The semester is officially in full-swing. I've finally got the paper organized, contacted the reporters, columnists, editors and photographers, and everything is running smoothly.

I am training two guys who plan on taking over as Editors next year.

And I'm still managing to get around eight hours of sleep per night.

We'll see how long that lasts...

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



New Westfield State College president, Dr. Dobelle



The strange, wrap-around way to enter either side of Ely

Westfield State College senior takes on directing again

Molly Coyle
Voice Reporter

Lying stomach-down on a table in Westfield State's Black Box theatre, John Schell surveys his actors mingling before rehearsal begins. Some of the student actors sit in groups, laughing and reminiscing of times past, others spring into random musical numbers, complete with song and dance to pass the time.

As a lone student enters the theatre, Schell jumps up to greet her with a warm smile and a compassionate embrace to say "hello", and then joins in himself in the song and dance shortly after. This time, the song of choice is "All That's Known" from the musical Spring Awakening.

After waiting for a bit for any stragglers, Schell realizes he's still missing a quarter of his cast. Schell whips out his cell phone and begins to make phone calls. With the sleeves of his green khaki sweater rolled up to his elbows, and his left hand on his hip, he informs the cast members who hadn't checked their email that there is a rehearsal currently taking place. Pacing in front of a white-streaked chalk board and a 70's-esque retro gold, yellow and orange sectional, it becomes blatantly obvious to him that tonight's rehearsal would include only a fraction of the cast.

"Let's do something," Schell suddenly decides, "Everybody up."

A theatre game quickly ensues. The cast members lay on their backs on the black floor of the theatre with their heads on one another's stomachs. Schell walks around the relaxed bodies of his cast members as they attempt not to laugh and to say only their allotted number of "Ha"s. When they mess up and laughter erupts from the floor, a warm smile spreads out over Schell's entire face: the actors recognize it as an expression of love and pride. It is apparent that these cast members are like a family to him, and that he loves every single one, whether he's known them for years, or if they're incoming freshman that he just met this semester.

Schell, a 22-year-old Theatre major at Westfield State College, is the director of the upcoming Student Theatre Association play entitled "interview" by Jean-Claude van Itallie.

"It's about the evolution of human beings into machines: automatons, basically," Schell said. "The human beings that come in at the beginning, the applicants, go through the harrowing process of turning into a machine. They become brainwashed. Human versus machine pretty much."

Schell, a Townsend Mass native, has participated in every theatrical program available on the Westfield State College campus.

"I never leave Ely Studio Theatre and its surrounding department," Schell said.

Schell has had much acting experience at Westfield State College that backs up his knowledge about theatre and acting. He has appeared in such productions as "Songs for a New World," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "Guys and Dolls" with Musical Theater Guild; and more recently, Schell appeared as Edmund in "Wintertime" and Danton in "Danton's Death" this past fall semester, produced by the Theatre Arts Program. In terms of directing experience, Schell has that as well. He directed MTG's fall 2006 production of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods."

"He's really laid back and cool but he likes to get to the bottom of things," said freshman Brittany Costa.

Schell has also had experience from the executive point of view as well. He was Assistant Secretary for MTG, and is currently the Vice President of STA.

Schell chose his show based on recommendations from two sources .

"It was actually recommended to me by one of the graduating seniors in the program, Nick Combs, as well as one of our former professors, Chris Slaughter," said Schell.

Very few students, even theatrically involved ones, would want to attempt to direct any type of show, but following his experience with "Into the Woods," he decided he wanted to pursue directing again.

"It was a very fulfilling experience," Schell said. "I loved being able to take something that somebody else created, recreate it in my own vision, and do new things with it."

"John was an interesting director," said junior Andrew Stegelmann who played the Wolf and Cinderella's father in Schell's production of "Into the Woods." "There were times that he would be a great director and inspire the actors to think outside the box, and often outside their comfort zones, bringing the real characters out."

As with most students of theatre, Schell hopes to one day make a career from his acting.

"I'd be living in New York, auditioning my life away," Schell said.

The Student Theatre Association's production of "interview" will be performed on February 13, 14 and 15 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in and February 16 at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. in Ely's Black Box Theater.

Black History Month - Continued from Page 2

There will be numerous film presentations and discussions throughout the month including the movies, "The Black Press: Soldiers without Swords" (Feb. 5), "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes" (Feb. 19), and "Revolution '67" (Feb. 27).

Another dinner is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the Scanlon Banquet Hall. This dinner is presented by the Third World Organization and will cost $6. Foods will include barbecue chicken, fried chicken, Spanish rice, macaroni and cheese, candied yams, cornbread, corn, cake, and cookies.

The Langston Hughes Project will present a multimedia performance, Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz, 9 p.m. March 3, in the Ely main lounge.

Black History Month is sponsored by a number of organizations and departments on campus including: Academic Achievement Center, Academic Affairs, Campus Activities Board, Campus Center, Communications, English, History, Media and Technical Services, Minority Affairs, Psychology, Sociology and Social Work, Advancement and College Relations, Residential Life, Sodexho Dining Services, Student Services, Third World Organization and World Languages, Multicultural, and Gender Studies.

New Westfield State president, students to meet over "late-night breakfast"

At 11 p.m. older adults may be nodding off for a good night's sleep, but college students are at their best and brightest. So that's the optimum time the new Westfield State College president, Evan Dobelle, chose to meet with the student body. The students will join the president at his invitation to a late-night pancake breakfast in the Dining Commons at 11 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4.

The breakfast is organized by Student Affairs, with the help of the Student Government Association. Senior members of the college administration will dish out the breakfast in the serving line and also have the opportunity to mingle with the students.

Dobelle, a Pittsfield resident, has already surprised and impressed the students by living among them. He is staying in the college's new residence hall, while he and his wife, Kit, search for a new home in Westfield.

"The students are what college is all about," Dobelle said. "I'm looking forward to meeting with them over a hearty breakfast — especially one that corresponds so well with student time."

"This is an informal event open to all our students," said Susan J. LaMontagne, interim vice president for Student Affairs. "It's an opportunity for the president to reach out to the students at their own hour and in their own space."

Barbara J. Hand, staff advisor for the SGA, said the student leaders are spreading the word about the event and student reaction is enthusiastic.

"This is a fantastic gesture from the new president and I think the students will be thrilled," said Celeste N. Evans, senior English major and member of SGA.

See unique display at Campus Center – from the Ely Library Archives



Westfield's distinguished alumni include George B. Corteiyou, who became the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; Nettie Marie Stevens, who discovered the X and Y chromosomes; and Eduardo C. Robreno, the first Cuban-American federal court judge. In 1847, the alumni association was born when the first graduates gathered for a reunion in Westfield. National figures gave speeches; the local newspaper saturated its pages with coverage. In the 1870s, the Japanese government sent a prince to study at Westfield so that its practices could be emulated in Japan. Although its primary mission was the preparation of teachers, Westfield Normal School graduates entered careers as diverse as medicine, law, publishing, the ministry, and government service as well.

Welcome Back Class of 1889

Learn about the *State Normal School at Westfield* (Westfield State College)-1889.

- See the Class of 1889 graduating photos.
- Take the entrance exam given on August 31, 1886.
- Observe the list of classes the students had to pass.
- Notice how much it cost to attend school and live on campus.

Poetry Reading
with Patricia Smith

Feb. 20, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Scanlon Banquet Hall

Letter to the Editor

No longer are college students poor due to excessive partying, beer funds and late night pizzas. College is expensive. There is no other way to put it. Tuition, fees, room and board, it all adds up fast. But on top of all that, books alone can cost more than $500 per semester. As a college freshman, I have just started my second semester. Last semester I spent roughly $400 on textbooks. The College Board reported that in the 2005-2006 school year the average student spent between $801-$904 per year. If I am lucky enugh to only spend $400 for the remaining six semester of my college career, by the time I graduate I'd have spent $2,800 alone.

Short of selling a vital organ, coming up with the extra money every semester for books is not an easy task. I know that I am not alone in the struggle to buy books. As most of my peers will tell you, it's not an easy task. Sure, we could work part time jobs or pick up more hours at those jobs that we already have, but as a college student, time is something that seems to be in short supply.

On July 16, 2006, the Boston Globe printed an article that stated "A Government Accountibility Office report found that in the last two decades, college textbook prices have increased at twice the rate of inflation. In the 2003-2004 academic year, students and their families spent more than $6 billion on new and used textbooks."

So what is done to regulate the cost of textbooks? In November 2007, the House of Representatives created a piece legislation titled "College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007" (H.R. 4137). This act was created to make sure the cost of college would not continue to rise like it has been and to help lower the price of textbooks by "making textbook costs more manageable for students by helping them plan for textbook expenses in advance of each semester." (http://edworkforce.house.gov/)

Even though this legislation is a step in the right direction for making textbooks more affordable, it's not enough. The bill still has to pass in the Senate and something needs to be done within colleges themselves. Professors should be requiered to research the price of the textbooks they're assigning. Since they're not the ones purchasing the books they rarely know how much they cost.

In an article printed in the Daily Bruin, "In studies conducted by CALPIRG, 94 percent of professors say they would have selected the cheaper of two equal books if they had the information." Most publishers acutally hide the price from professors so that they don't know the cost of the books they're assigning their students to purchase.

Unfortunately, the price of textbooks will most likely continue to rise until something is done to prevent them from doing so. For the first time we, the students, can do something to change the price of textbooks. Write letters to your senators and representatives urging them to vote for the "Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007."

Hopefully some day soon the "poor college student" will never again have to find a way to come up with another $500 to pay for this books.

Sincerely,
Angela Marini
Class of 2011

Jimmy O's cooking corner

Jimmy Ottino
Voice Columnist

Hey guys! Welcome back for the spring semester! I hope your breaks were great, and full of rest and whatnot.

Well if you don't know me, I'm Jimmy Ottino, a senior here at WSC. I'm writing this weekly column to help all you guys and girls that suffer from the inability to cook. I'll be giving you recipes and directions for some great meals, desserts, and appetizers to put together that taste great and should be a good time making! Now I come from an Italian family, so of course I'm going to start off with a traditional Italian dinner – spaghetti & meatballs. Here's what you'll need:



Photo courtesy of www.nynewsday.com/...lpiotol2005-04/16955698.jpg

- 2 boxes of Ziti, Fettuccini or Spaghetti
- 1 large jar of spaghetti sauce. (I like roasted garlic)
- 1 lb of ground beef (or turkey for you dieters)
- Minced garlic
- Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 egg
- Salt & pepper
- Parmesan cheese (fine grated preferably)
- Parsley, if you wanna get crazy
- 1 large head of romaine lettuce
- Caesar salad dressing
- Italian croutons
- Olive oil

Before starting, boil water in two large saucepans. (1 for pasta, 1 for meatballs)

Take the defrosted meat, place in a large mixing bowl.

Add on top:

- 1/2 cup of breadcrumbs
- 4 or 5 pinches of garlic (7 or 8 if you're like me)
- The egg
- Salt and pepper to your liking
- 1/2 cup of parmesan cheese
- Dash or 2 of parsley

Mix this mess all together, and roll the meat mix into balls with hands.

You should get roughly 15 meatballs, depending on how big you like them.

Throw the sauce into a pan and bring heat to 2 or 3.

Put pasta into pan with 1 tbsp of oil. Cover.

Throw the meatballs into the boiling water. Cover.

Take them out in about 10 minutes. The boiling cooks the meatballs faster, more thoroughly and cuts a lot of excess fat out of the meat.

Place meatballs into the sauce, and let them simmer for a few.

Chop up the romaine lettuce on your cutting board. Saving the bag it came in, put the chopped lettuce in bag with croutons, parmesan cheese, and dressing. Blow into the bag, and close it so it's puffed up like a balloon. Shake for like ten seconds and the salad should be nicely mixed!

So now you have your pasta cooked, your meatballs ready to rock and an awesome salad to start with! Enjoy!

My Haiti Plunge experience

Caley Mackenzie
Special to The Voice

I first heard about the Haiti Plunge from my friend and WSC student, Molly Martel. She went to Haiti in March 2007 and told me a few stories about her experience. Molly used the term, "full of awe" to describe Haiti. That phrase convinced me to join her on her second trip to Haiti this past December.

The Haiti Plunge came about when Sister Eunice Tassone challenged some North Adams High School students to change the world they lived in. These students, with Sister Eunice's help, began the program in 1984. The goal of the program is to aid rural villages in the mountains of Haiti through education, health care and establishing leadership.

The aspect of my trip that I wish to share with others is, what I found to be, the most significant difference between Haiti and America. That difference is not the size of our houses or our cities or our incomes. The most considerable difference is the way we interact with one another.

Think about the way you, your family and your friends all act around one another. Parents raise their children so one day they can depart the nest with no plans of returning. As parents grow older, they turn to retirement homes or condos as opposed to moving in with their adult children.

Haitians live quite differently. More than 10 individuals live together in a single home about the size of the average American living room. Family members build their houses closely to one another and remain in the same village throughout their entire lives. Sisters raise one another's children without a second thought. Children teach one another games as opposed to playing video games. Most importantly, no one is ever alone.

I have been home from Haiti for less than a week. Everything seems familiar. I even appreciate the simple things in life, such as using a flushing toilet and seeing my reflection in a mirror. With everything "normal" again, I cannot help but wonder who is better off: us or them? The obvious answer to some may be us. Americans have nice houses and no need to protect them with razor wire. We can budget dinner and a movie every once in a while, even on minimal incomes. We have the luxury of turning on a faucet or a light switch and we know it won't fail us in filling our needs.

How could Haitians be better off if more than half do not have running water or electricity? The answer is simple: Haitians are never alone. From the time they are infants they create bonds with their family and village. As they grow older, Haitians appreciate "presence more than presents" (an old adage of Sister Eunice's). They've learned to live without material objects we take for granted such as adequate food, decent homes, clothes, shoes, you name it. However, they cannot survive without companionship. Haitians are rich in the one aspect of life that is free: love. Americans, on the other hand, are rich in possessions because they have the opportunity to have whatever they want. But Americans choose "stuff" over companionship.

At the end of your life, do you think you will be counting your collection of designer jeans or the used video game systems that reside in the back of your closet? Or will you be counting the kisses you shared, the snowball fights with your friends, and the warm summer days at the beach with your family? My experience in Haiti made me reevaluate my perspective on American culture and realize that friendship and love is far more important than anything I will ever buy. Remember you have a choice in priorities as well. You don't need to follow the American trend of solitude.



Photo courtesy of Caley Mackenzie

Rachel Costa, Caley Mackenzie, and Molly Martel (left to right). They are all WSC students.

Voices Overheard

What are your predictions for the Superbowl?



Patrick Dayton
Class of 2009
Secondary Special Education

"Patriots in a close one, 31-27."



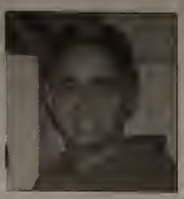
Stephanie Stanley
Class of 2011
Business

"Patriots, 30-17."



Eileen Foyle
Class of 2009
Business

"Patriots win, 27-20, and Wes Welker is named MVP."



Joe Correnti
Class of 2010
Criminal Justice

"Patriots win, 35-27. Tom Brady MVP."

Compiled by Colby Henderson & Jeff Dale

A drunk driver is my Super Bowl highlight

Woody Woodburn
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Superstar cyclist Lance Armstrong's world was turned upside down on Oct. 2, 1996, the day he was diagnosed with cancer. Now a survivor, he celebrates that date as the moment his life changed unexpectedly for the better.

I have my own 10/2 -- as, I believe, do most of us -- on 1/26. That was the date of Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego in 2003, which I covered as a sports columnist for the Torrance Daily Breeze in Southern California. A few hours after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers turned the Oakland Raiders into twisted wreckage, 48-21, an uninsured drunk driver did the same to my Honda Accord.

Police estimated that he was flying at 65 mph on a downtown street before ramming my car as I waited to make a right-hand turn. The impact was so violent that the driver's seat was ripped off its bolts. When my wife called the towing company, she was offered condolences; the worker couldn't believe I hadn't been killed.

"You're a very lucky man," one of the police officers told me after he finished documenting the accident scene.

Lucky, indeed. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 17,602 people were killed in alcohol-related accidents in 2006, about the same number as in 2003. Last year's figures are sure to be tragically high.

Still, luck is relative. I suffered a ruptured disk in my neck and underwent a two-hour operation called an "anterior cervical discectomy and fusion five-six with iliac graft." Translation: The neurosurgeon sliced my neck open from the front, delicately removed the damaged disk between my fifth and sixth vertebrae without damaging the spinal cord, used a power saw to cut a wedge of bone from my pelvis and then shoehorned this slice of bone between the two vertebrae to enable them to fuse.

The surgery left a 3-inch scar running across my Adam's apple that allows me to honestly tell people who ask about it, "Oh, it's from an old Super Bowl injury." Unfortunately, I had nerve damage that proved irreversible. Now, five years later, my left thumb and fingers remain numb and slightly uncoordinated. I found that hunching over a keyboard in a cramped press box was torture after about an hour.



Photo courtesy of www.totalcarcrashes.com/category/toyota/

All the same, I look back on 1/26 as a blessing.

For starters, it forced me to leave a job I loved too much to leave on my own. Sportswriting had me away from home too many nights a week, almost every weekend and most holidays. Yes, I miss the press box, but in return I have not missed so much more. My wife and I recently celebrated our silver wedding anniversary on the correct date, not the nearest night with no game. Instead of covering the Lakers or Dodgers, I attended every performance of two plays my daughter wrote in high school. I have not missed a single one of my son's high school cross-country or track meets. I wouldn't trade the Super Bowl, Final Four and Olympics for that.

Sports is still part of my life. I write for magazines and am working on a book that includes words of wisdom from athletes I have interviewed over the years. Olympic track champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee, for instance, who shared, "When you have hard times or low moments, that just makes the good times more valuable and special." And University of California, Los Angeles basketball coach John Wooden's adage, "Make each day your masterpiece." And of course, Armstrong, who told me: "My philosophy is to never waste another day thinking about tomorrow or next week or next year. Cancer taught me that today is all I have. I want to live today like there is no tomorrow."

I didn't fully appreciate these insights before having my life spun around by a drunk driver.

Sure, there are times when my fingers feel like they are on fire and I fall into self-pity. I sometimes curse the drunk driver who rear-ended me because my neck aches all the time. I had to "retire" from playing men's rec-center basketball and give up tennis. Still, I was lucky. I completed a marathon run (3 hours, 18 minutes) two years after the accident, and I didn't have to do it in the wheelchair division.

As much as I lost because of a drunk driver, at least it wasn't my life. As much as I lost, I have gained much more -- such as the perspective that Lance Armstrong's 10/2 and my 1/26 and so many people's 9/11 should make each of us realize that our days are numbered.

'Atonement' review

Bill George
The Movie Dude

Grade: B+

Now nominated for seven Academy Awards, director Joe Wright's "Atonement" has been getting a lot of attention. What for? ... I'm not really sure.

The film is based on a British romance novel that tells the tale of three lives that dramatically change direction when a 13-year-old accuses a man of a crime he did not commit. How that situation comes to be is the crux of the story so I dare not spoil it here.

Keira Knightley plays Cecilia and Saoirse Ronan (nominated for Best Support Actress) plays her younger sister Briony, the afore-mentioned 13-year-old. A convincing James McAvoy plays the accused.

The film is also nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay and I would not be surprised to see it win. The story is the driving force behind the entire picture and it is most assuredly solid. I found myself constantly wondering what would happen next.

Driving the story's emotion home is the music, which is nominated for Best Original Score. The recurring theme sets the mood for the film and fits perfectly during transitions, while Briony's theme incorporates the sound of a typewriter into the soundtrack. It is a stroke of genius that not only heightens tension but also is unique and recognizable.



Photo courtesy of www.empirecinemas.co.uk/_uploads/film_images/...

With these praises now sung I'll just say it: the film is very good, not great. Many scenes try so hard to reach profound drama that they only accomplish melodrama. In and of itself this is not a bad thing but coupled with the atrocious pacing and timing of the film it can be painful. This film is just ... so ... slow. There is no excuse for a two-hour film to feel like it lasts three hours and induce this level of buttocks discomfort.

"Atonement" is a fine film with a lot of things going for it: the story is original and well written, the acting is consistently good and the music is extraordinary. For the most part all of these factors outweigh the film's faults: overlong passages and a sluggish pace. In the end the film remains above average but short of stellar. An understandable choice as a Best Picture nominee but it does not have my vote.

BOTTOM LINE: Certainly worthy of praise, but not the amount it has been receiving.

For more full reviews and my Oscar picks (look for them in a few weeks) visit: http://www.IAgreeWithTheMovieDude.com/

Do you like to get off campus, but not to just party?

Do you want to discuss something besides the latest episode of Desperate Housewives?



If so, attend the Spring kick-off meeting for

Academic Pursuits

Thursday, February 7th
6pm
Bates Lounge

A club for those students wanting to see what our part of New England has to offer them

If you have any questions about seeing what else is out there, contact Danielle Rice at drice7977@wsc.ma.edu or Professor Brewster at gbrewster@wsc.ma.edu

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Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Correction
Division of Human Resources
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Norfolk, Massachusetts 02056
Phone: (508) 850-7888 Fax: (508) 850-5216

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The Massachusetts Department of Correction will hold its fourth Career Opportunities Fair on Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Training Academy in Shirley, MA.

As a public safety agency, the Department of Correction's mission is to promote public safety by incarcerating offenders while providing opportunities for participation in effective programming designed to reduce recidivism. The Department of Correction is looking for candidates who can contribute to that mission.

At the Career Opportunities Fair, Department of Correction staff, including representatives from Human Resources, Training, and Affirmative Action will be available to discuss how staff at the Department of Correction contributes to public safety.

We are inviting interested applicants to this career fair to obtain further information on available positions. Additionally there will be an orientation session regarding the selection, screening and formal training required for recruit applicants as well as other positions in the Department of Correction. The orientation session will aid interested applicants in making a well-informed decision regarding ability and commitment to succeed at the Department of Correction.

You are welcome to bring a family member or friends, as many other titles are also available such as, Correction Officer, Correction Program Officer, Legal Counsel, Accountant, Administrative Assistant, Clerk, Chaplain, Civil Engineer, EDP Programmer, Industrial Instructor (various maintenance positions such as HVAC, Electricians, Carpenters etc.), Program Manager, Personnel Officer, Power Plant Engineer, Research Analyst, Steam Fireman, Storekeeper, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

We look forward to making this Career Fair a great success!

Karen Hetherson
Director, Human Resources

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Celtics cook Denver Nuggets

Rob McGinnity
Sports Columnist

The Celtics won last week, by a score of 119-92, against the Denver Nuggets. Denver is coming off a back to back game against the New York Knicks and it showed. In the first quarter, it was very noticeable that the nuggets didn't' have much in the tank. The Celtics came out firing on all cylinders. They scored 39 points and lead by 16 at the end of the first. The Celtics shot 71 percent in the first quarter and spread the ball well. Rajon Rondo had a few big steals and the Big Three were clicking together. Perkins looked surprisingly good on defense with a couple big blocks. Everyone got in on the mix. Rondo helped toward the win with his gritty defense and passing. The Nuggets looked sloppy and turned the ball over eight times in the first, many were steals by Rondo and blocks by Kevin Garnett. Celtics went on a 22-4 run early in the second quarter. Eddie House contributed 3's it seemed at a moments notice. Against one of the top teams in the Western Conference, the Celtics showed that they are for real this year. The Celtics shot an unbelievable 72 percent during a first half that was dominated by both offense and defense. There largest lead was as much as 41 points at one time. The final score doesn't do the game justice. The Celtics were moving the ball, got turnovers and shot a high percentage the whole game. The nuggets lead by high scorer Allen Iverson had no "answer" for the Celtics. The inside outside game worked to perfection. Kevin Garnett finished the game with 23 points and 13 rebounds. He had his shot working from all over the floor and his fadaway was un-guardable. "Jesus Shuttlesworh" a.k.a Ray Allen finished with 22 points and was very efficient from the floor as well. He is shooting 63 percent since joining the Celtics. The Big Three attributed to most of the offensive productive but other players added the intangibles. It's only three games in, but this year's Celtics team looks scary. I'm just glad that the Celtics are finally contenders.' I have been a Celtics fan for as long as I can remember and for me it feels awesome to have suffered through the bad years for an exciting team like this. The Celtics are now 3-0 and it doesn't look like there going to get a loss anytime soon.



Photo courtesy of www.markni - codemo.mu.nu/archives/2005_08.php

Pedroia named Rookie of the Year

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

Dustin Pedroia played the final two months of the season with a cracked bone in his hand, yet still managed to help the Red Sox win the World Series. He accomplished that and won himself the AL Rookie of the Year award. Pedroia is the first member of the Red Sox to win the AL Rookie of the Year award since shortstop Nomar Garciaparra did in 1997.

Back in the beginning of May when Pedroia was batting under .200, it would have been hard to envision him winning this prestigious award for excellence. The important thing is that Pedroia never lost confidence in himself, and neither did manager Terry Francona. Pedroia continued to put in 110 percent when he played, and Francona continued to put him into the starting lineup each day.

In the voting, Pedroia's fellow teammates Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima found themselves ranked fourth and sixth, respectively. Pedroia received 132 points to win Rookie of the Year and Delmon Young of Tampa Bay came in second with a total of 56 points.

Pedroia is the sixth member of the Red Sox to win this award and he is well deserving of it. He accomplished things that people thought that he couldn't, mainly because of his height. He is short for a baseball player, but he does pack a punch when he swings the bat.

Defensively, Pedroia made some spectacular plays and it is still unbelievable that he made those plays the last two months of the season with a broken bone in his hand. That type of injury would discourage most players from playing, but Pedroia never stopped.

The fact that he always gave everything that he had, even with a broken bone, shows his dedication to the sport and how much he enjoys it. Only someone with extreme love for the sport would continue to play with an injury, and he did.

All of his dedication and outstanding games got him this Rookie of the Year award. He was by far the best candidate for the award and Red Sox Nation is sure glad that he received it.

The Red Sox are lucky to have such an asset at second base.

Lowell plays the field

Kevin Davidoff
Newsday

NEW YORK -- Just last week, at the general managers' meetings, the New York Yankees' Brian Cashman said he expected Mike Lowell to return to the Boston Red Sox.

But free agents can negotiate with other clubs starting Tuesday, and Lowell, the 2007 World Series MVP, is still a free agent. And the Yankees intend to capitalize on that development -- which, in turn, could push Alex Rodriguez toward the rival Red Sox.

The Yankees will reach out to Lowell, who grew up in their farm system, and in short time, they could make him an offer.

"He's a player were going to certainly talk to," Cashman said Monday.

Cashman already has held extensive discussions this month with Lowell's agents, Sam and Seth Levinson, because the brothers also represent Jorge Posada, whom the Yankees are trying to re-sign.

The Red Sox have made a three-year offer to Lowell, reportedly for about $12 million per season. But Lowell apparently thinks he can get a four-year deal in the open market.

Cashman, since gaining full control of the Yankees in May 2005, has been conservative -- from a years standpoint -- in his contract offers to other teams' free agents. So he might not embrace the idea of committing four years to Lowell, who will turn 34 in February 2008 and who hit far better in Fenway Park than on the road this past season. But Lowell is an excellent defender, and his right-handed bat would balance the Yankees' predominantly lefty lineup.

If the Red Sox lose Lowell, then they would likely make a serious run at A-Rod, who nearly joined Boston in December 2003 but, after joining the Yankees, was treated harshly by Red Sox fans the past four years.

Andy Messer is All New England

NEW LONDON, Conn. - Senior Andy Messer capped his collegiate career by earning All New England honors at the NCAA Division III New England regional cross country championships Nov. 10.

Messer placed 33rd with a time of 25:13.4 over the five-mile course. His identical twin John Messer just missed All New England honors by finishing 36th in 25:36.2. The top 35 individuals are accorded All New England status. Both Messers did finish ahead of 2007 MASCAC champ Forest Wilbur (37th, 25:37.9) of Worcester State.

A total of 330 runners competed in the championship, with Williams College's Edgar Kosey of Kenya placing first in 24:55.4.

Amherst College edged archrival Williams for the team championship by a point, 117-118. The Messers led Westfield State to a 16th place out of 47 teams.

Westfield's other top runners were: Phil Gingras (125th, 27:03.5), David Estabrook (132nd, 27:08.1), and Chaz Beard (152nd, 27:39.1).



Photo courtesy of www.westfield-state owls.com

Illangakoon to play in Australia

Former Westfield State College men's basketball player Gavin Illangakoon recently signed a professional contract to play in Australia.

The Melbourne, Australia, native will play for the 2008 edition of Albury-Wodonga Bandits of the South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL), which is the second highest level of basketball in Australia.

The Bandits joined the SEABL in 1984 and won their first East Conference championship in 2001. Albury-Wodonga is located three hours from Melbourne and one of the largest inland population centers in the country with 90,000 people.

"We here at Westfield State are elated that Gavin has the opportunity to pursue his goal of playing professional basketball," said Westfield State men's basketball head coach Rich Sutter. "He is a tireless worker who represented Westfield State extremely well both on and off the court."

Illangakoon finished his fine four-year Westfield State career with 913 career points. The 6-2 guard was a two-time all-conference player for the Owls. Last season he averaged 12.3 points per game and led the Owls in assists (4.3) and free throw shooting (95-for-128, 75 percent). He ranked second in steals (1.7 per game) and 3-point shooting (40-for-128, 38 percent).

Illangakoon is a high honors student and will graduate from Westfield State this December with a degree in economics and finance. He came to Westfield from Ellington, Conn., High School, where he was an international exchange student.

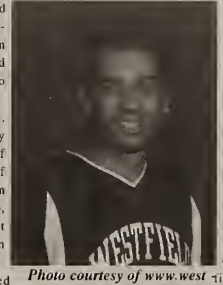


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Fri 11/16	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Celtics vs. Miami 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 11/17	Gaming of the Big Screen 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Sabbath Services 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Card Night 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 11/18	Patriots vs. Buffalo 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Ely Main Lounge	Intramurals 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Celtics vs. Miami 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m Ely Main Lounge
Mon 11/19	Cardio Kickboxing 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wellness Center	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Body Toning 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wellness Center
Tues 11/20	Student Success Meeting 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ely 232	Intramurals 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Campus Green	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center
Wed 11/21	Ely Hall Construction Meeting 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Ely 130	Intramurals 12:00 p.m.to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Pat Conant Art Class Presentation 9:20 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. Wilson 139
Thurs 11/22	Intramurals 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Campus Green	Band Practice 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Construction Supervisor Training 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Wilson 426

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ATTENTION:
Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | February 8, 2008 | Issue XV

Patriots imperfection

Mike Kearney
Voice Columnist

With 2:42 remaining on the clock Randy Moss catches a six-yard pass for a touchdown from Tom Brady, extra point good from Gostkowski. Okay, good they're now up 14-10 with less than three minutes remaining, which means Eli Manning will have to somehow find a way to lead his team down the field and score.

I mean come on Eli Manning? His greatest accomplishment so far being that he is the younger brother of Peyton. It's a fluke that the Giants are even in The Super Bowl to begin with, by beating up an already beaten Packer defense, in below freezing temperatures, enough so Lawrence Tynes could redeem himself for the two field goals he missed earlier in the game and send the Giants to Arizona in over time.

So, we can sit back and relax, watching Rodney Harrison, Adalius Thomas, and the rest of the fourth ranked defense in the NFL stop a sixteentb ranked offense, led by Peyton Manning's 13-year old brother.

It's third down with five to go and little Manning has moved the ball to his own 44 yard line, so this is where our defense puts it foot down, right? Ball is snapped and in come Jarvis Green and Richard Seymour , whom do everything in their power to bring Eli to the ground for a sack that would of led to at least a ten yard loss.

Eli somehow escapes the clutches of Green and proceeds to throw the ball in the air like it is just asking to be picked off, or at the very least knocked down. Out of nowhere leaps David Tyree, who makes an unbelievable catch with Rodney Harrison right by his side doing his best to make sure he doesn't make that catch.

Then all it takes is a short outside pass to Steve smith to stop the clock, and a 13 yard shot to a wide open Plaxico Burress for the Giants to take the lead with 35 seconds left. Leaving the New England defense looking dazed and confused, as if in disbelief that they're perfect season was slipping away right before their eyes.

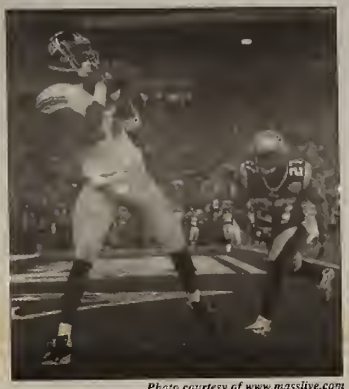


Photo courtesy of www.masslive.com

You know the rest as the Giant defense continued to rattle Brady sacking him for the fifth time, leading to two incomplete passes and a seemingly perfect season that vanished right in front of him.

What makes this season so disappointing is the fact that we still have to hear about "Spygate", and the '72 Dolphins. That the Patriots cheated, and all they got was a slap on the wrist, and some fines. As if the Belichick really needed tapes of Jets play calling to beat a team that won only 4 games this season, two of those wins being against the 1-15 Dolphins. Let's just make this clear the Patriots didn't need to cheat because no team, up until this past Sunday, was able to match their skill, and intensity to beat them.

So now as New England fans we get to hear Senators from Pennsylvania who are more concerned about the NFL destroying tapes than bringing our troops home, or countless other social issues that congress should be dealing with. So go ahead Senator Specter, hold hearings about the NFL investigation into "Spygate", because Congressional hearings have accomplished so much in the past when involved with other major league sports.

Your record is safe for now '72 Dolphins, as I'm sure they all took a big sigh of relief when the last few seconds ticked away on the clock. As they remain, technically, the only team in NFL history to go undefeated. So bask in all the glory that is perfection Don Shula, your record is safe for now.

It will be a long seven months until the Patriots have the chance to start another run at going undefeated again next season, but only if they make some key off-season moves. Re-signing Moss being at the top of the to-do list, as he will become a free agent this off-season, and bulking up an aging defense that could see a few of their best linebacker retiring, Bruschi and Junior Seau.

Hopefully Brady can learn to forget about this colossal disaster of a game, and remember the high points of the season. Being named League MVP, throwing a record-breaking 50 touchdowns, and finishing the entire regular season undefeated. You may have gone 17-0 Shula, but these NFL players aren't from 1972 they are larger than ever, and these Patriots went 16-0 against bigger, better teams than the 1972 Dolphins played against.

Now for all the suffering New England fans out there like me, I know it's hard to believe we had our dreams of a perfect season taken away from us by the New York Giants. A team led by a quarterback who looks like he just graduated high school, and he happens to be the brother of Peyton Manning. Congratulations Eli you now may get some respect around the NFL for leading your team to one of the largest Super Bowl upsets of all time. But you always be known in New England as Peyton Manning's brother, or worse.

At least The Red Sox are still World Series Champs, and the Celtics have the best record in the NBA, although if we learned anything from Sunday it's that best records don't mean jack if you don't win championships.

Look at it this way; at least there aren't anymore Manning sons.

Top 10 rejected titles the for George W. Bush movie

10. Jackass 3

9. The Lyin' King

8. The Departed as of January 20, 2009

7. Stop or my Vice President will shoot

6. Dial "M" for Moron

5. Das Boob

4. When Sally Met Cheney's Daughter

3. White Men Can't Govern

2. The Nightmare Before Hillary

1. Raging Bull****

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

College Grad hiring up 11.8 percent for 2008

STATE COLLEGE, PA--(HR MARKETER)--January 30, 2008--As students begin their spring semester at college campuses nationwide, CollegeGrad.com, the #1 Entry Level Job Site, announces the Top 500 Entry Level Employers for 2008. Great news for the Class of 2008--entry level employers are increasing their hiring by 11.8% in 2008. This is the largest projected increase in entry level hiring CollegeGrad.com has seen since 2005.

The Top Entry Level Employers list represents more than 165,000 jobs for the class of 2008, and is available online at http://www.CollegeGrad.com/top employers.

"This is an impressive number of openings for 2008," said Brian Krueger, President of CollegeGrad.com. "Even in the midst of a challenging economy, college grads are in very high demand, and employers are competing to attract top skilled candidates in all industries."

The list details the 2008 entry level hiring plans for employers nationwide and includes links to the home page, careers page and college page for each employer. Each employer page also details projections for intern hires and master's level hires for the 2008 recruiting year.

Continued on Page 2

Voices Overheard are back! Check out page 5!!!



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Sports page 7

Grad - Continued from Page 1

Among the 2008 Top Entry Level Employers listed by CollegeGrad.com, 60% anticipate hiring more college grads in 2008 than 2007. 21% will hire the same number and 19% will be hiring fewer college grads than in 2007. At the top of the list, Enterprise Rent-A-Car plans to hire 8500 new grads, while the smallest featured employers will hire as few as 10. But large or small, the good news is they are all enthusiastically hiring the Class of 2008.

While the list includes many return Top Employers from previous years, such as Lowe's, Liberty Mutual Group, and Sodexho, there are many exciting new additions to the list, including EMC with 1200 planned hires, FactSet with 550 planned hires, and hi5 Networks with 20 planned entry level hires.

Significant growth is being projected by companies of all sizes and in all industries throughout the list. Among the largest companies, Progressive Insurance is projecting a 42% increase in entry level hiring for 2008. Fund for Public Interest Research is projecting an impressive 260% growth in hiring--going from 125 entry level hires in 2007 to 450 in 2008. Growth such as this by companies across the board will help to provide this year's graduating class with a truly favorable job market.

What specific challenges will college grads face in their entry level job search for 2008?

"Globalization continues to transform the business landscape," said Blane Ruschak, National Director of University Relations and Recruiting for KPMG. "This has led to an increased hiring emphasis on college graduates that possess or have the ability to acquire global skills and competencies."

In the midst of an increasingly global economy, and with an unprecedented percentage of professionals reaching retirement age, employers look to college grads to breathe new ideas, and bring expanded skills and fresh perspectives into the corporate world.

"We consider campus recruiting the lifeblood of our organization," said Monique Brannon, Director of Recruiting for Grant Thornton. Tony Gibert, Recruiting Director for Naval Sea Systems Command Warfare Centers, agrees. "New college grads are a very important part of our workforce. They not only bring a 'new' perspective coupled with global knowledge of technology applications and communication tools, but also show a contagious enthusiasm, work energy and initiative."

Krueger reminds college students that although the 2008 job outlook is favorable, a successful job search requires a concerted and focused effort. "It's never too early to start your job search. And with more entry level career information provided to college students and recent grads than available at any other site, CollegeGrad.com is a great place to start your search. Start early for best results. Start now."

About CollegeGrad.com:
CollegeGrad.com is the #1 Entry Level Job Site on the Internet and is the leader in the field of entry level job search. Established in 1995, CollegeGrad.com has been conducting the Top Entry Level Employers Survey since 1997. Brian Krueger is President and Founder of CollegeGrad.com and author of the best-selling book for entry level job search, College Grad Job Hunter.

Westfield community, college bond celebrated at Evan Dobelle reception

A reception welcoming new Westfield State College President Evan S. Dobelle and his wife, Kit, at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield Tuesday evening celebrated a long collaboration between the college, the club and the community. More than 100 guests attended the event, sponsored by the Westfield State College Foundation, Inc.

Mary Larrivee, foundation chair, welcomed the Dobelles and reception guests. "We are very excited to have Evan with us because of his depth of experience," Larrivee said.

Larrivee said the Boys and Girls Club was an appropriate location to welcome Dobelle because of his strong ties to the organization. Dobelle has been named to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Hall of Fame because of his longtime support of the club at both the local and national level.

"I'm a Boys and Girls Club kid," Dobelle said, describing how he benefited from the club as a youth. "For so many kids, the Boys and Girls Club is a real springboard to the future."

Dobelle praised the college-town relationship and said the bond can continue to grow for mutual benefit. "The college has had over the years significant support from the community and we're grateful for that," he said.

"Westfield is our first name and what is good for Westfield is good for Westfield State," Evan said.

Dobelle said the college could be a factor in revitalizing downtown Westfield. "This can be a college town," he said. "We have 2,600 people with disposable income just two miles from downtown."

The president said he also hopes to enhance the college's image locally, nationally and internationally. "Westfield is an extraordinary institution," he said. "Among the state colleges, Westfield is number one in entering student GPA and SAT scores and has the highest retention rate," he said.

Dobelle added that 90 percent of Westfield State students go on to a job or graduate school at graduation.

William R. Parks, the club's executive director, and Bo Sullivan, president of the club's board of directors, presented a golf jacket to Dobelle, as well as a framed hand-drawn logo of the club combined with the Westfield State Owl mascot. Austin Carmel, 15, of Westfield created the drawing for the new president.

Westfield Mayor Michael Boulanger also welcomed Dobelle, praising the college-community bond and saying he looks forward to working with the new president. Also introduced were State Sen. Michael R. Knapik (R-Westfield), State Rep. Donald F. Humason Jr. (R-Westfield), former Mayor Richard K. Sullivan, and members of the City Council.

A number of college employees are active the Boys and Girls Club, including Janet Garcia, college marketing director and a member of the club's Board of Directors and marketing committee. Garcia is also working on a joint effort with the club and the college foundation to establish a full Westfield State scholarship for the annual winner of the club's Youth of the Year award.

Richard Emmings Jr., formerly of the college's Information Technology(IT) department, is also a member of the club's Board of Directors and Aaron Childs, currently in the IT department, is also active in helping with the club's technological equipment.

Westfield State college students frequently volunteer to chaperone at club events or serve as tutors.

Editor's Desk



So it's two weeks into the semester and I' m already stressed! Does anyone else feel the same way? In fact I've already planned my first mental health day two weeks in advance.

As stressed as I am with work, classes, the Voice and my internship at the Daily Hampshire Gazette, it will all be worth it on May 17.

With that said, I want to elaborate on the internship. I've only been there for two weeks but it's one of the best academic experiences I've ever had. It's a lot of work. I'm working there almost as much as I do at CVS, the job that pays me. But no matter how tough it gets, I can't stress enough the importance of doing an internship.

Internships give you credits toward graduation and real life work experience. They also give you the opportunity to have a short-term job in your field of study. If you end up hating it, then it's not a wasted semester, but a semester spent showing you what you don't want to do for the rest of your life. If you end up loving it and having the time of your life (ok that might be stretching it...it's not Spring Break) then you have a career goal to works towards. Either way, internships are an invaluable experience.

Jenn Krok
Managing Editor
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Spring Training



The Patriots losing the Super Bowl and their perfect season

Congress is warming up to helping the climate

Richard Simon
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON -- Scores of climate-change bills are stacking up in the legislative queue. Numerous hearings, the most recent on the polar bear, are highlighting the issue. And some regulation-averse corporate executives have even called on Congress to step in.

But despite the dramatic shift in the Capitol in favor of doing something to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, global-warming legislation remains a long shot for this year.

Proponents always knew it would be tough to get a bill with mandatory limits through a narrowly divided Congress and past President Bush. But the first bill to advance since Democrats won the majority in 2006 has run into unexpected roadblocks.

Some environmentalists are complaining that it isn't strong enough, and they worry that it may even be watered down. They want to wait to take up a bill after the November election, when Democrats might capture more seats in Congress, and also the White House.

Numerous business groups aren't any more enthusiastic, saying the bill would drive up costs and make it harder for them to compete globally at a time of high anxiety about the economy.

And if the criticism from both sides isn't enough, this is an election year -- a time when partisan tensions heighten in Congress, making it difficult to pass anything controversial.

Still, congressional leaders are determined to press ahead.

"We must pass the strongest bill we can," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., the chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, "but we must remember that the perfect cannot be the enemy of the very good."

Those hoping to pass the bill point out that just a year ago it was unimaginable that environmentalists would win a decades-long fight for tougher fuel-economy standards. After the auto industry relented, the measure passed and Bush signed it. Environmentalists hope that scenario will be repeated with global warming.

"You now have a big chunk of industry saying, 'Let's just get this done,' " said Manik Roy, director of congressional affairs for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

The Senate has moved faster than the House. Boxer's committee has approved a bill by Sens. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and John W. Warner, R-Va., that would cap greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, factories, oil refineries and other polluters. The bill, called "America's Climate Security Act," would require companies that exceed the limits to buy credits from other companies that more than meet them.

The House is still working on its bill. Its leaders said they are determined to try to send a bill to the president before Congress adjourns this year, but acknowledge it will be difficult.

Today, more senators support mandatory emission reductions than the last time the issue came up for a vote. That was in 2005, when a bill drew the support of 38 senators.

With Democrats holding a narrow working majority in the Senate (the two independent senators generally vote with them), the bill's supporters need Republican votes to reach the 60 required to overcome a filibuster. But when the measure passed the Senate's environment committee, it received the support of only one Republican: Warner.

And a prominent Republican who was an early advocate of mandatory emission reductions opposes the bill. Sen. John McCain of Arizona objects that the measure doesn't promote nuclear power, a low-emission energy source he sees as a critical part of the solution.

The bill has generated concern from industry groups ranging from airlines to oil-and-gas producers. The American Iron and Steel Institute said the bill would make U.S. businesses less competitive, explaining that it "applies an uneven standard to American manufacturers, while not addressing the carbon footprint of our major foreign competitors."

William Kovacs, vice president for environment, technology and regulatory affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, dared Democrats to pass a bill he said would drive up utility costs at a time of high economic anxiety.

"Go for it," he said, warning that lawmakers could expect their votes to become a campaign issue.

In a sign of the difficult road ahead, Duke Energy Co., one of the companies that has supported an emissions cap, objects that the measure "unduly penalizes consumers in the Midwest, Great Plains and Southeast who depend on coal for much of their electricity." Opposition from coal-using utilities is important because a large number of senators hail from states that produce coal or rely on it to produce electricity.

Still, there are companies, including Alcoa, that see the bill as a way to end the uncertainty over regulation they believe is inevitable. The aluminum producer called the bill a "strong enough start."

Some environmentalists agree with Boxer that the time to act is now, noting that the bill is the strongest yet to come before the Senate. They are hopeful that it could pass, citing senators who voted against the 2005 bill -- including Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., and Max Baucus, D-Mont. -- who support this year's bill. And they believe it's important to bring up the bill to keep climate change in the forefront of the election debate.

"If you believe that action on global warming is increasingly urgent, a sit-back-and-wait strategy doesn't make a lot of sense, particularly when we have an opportunity to move good legislation now," said Jeremy Symons, director of the National Wildlife Federation's global warming program.

But others complain that the measure doesn't go far enough. "This bill doesn't do the job that science tells us we need to do," said Melinda Pierce, a Sierra Club lobbyist. Brent Blackwelder, president of Friends of the Earth, called it "an embarrassment."

The measure would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century to 70 percent below 2005 levels, but environmental groups claim that is short of the 80 percent scientists say is needed. A number of groups also object that the bill would, at least initially, give away pollution allowances to companies, reducing the incentive to cut emissions.
(End optional trim)

Some environmental groups hope to strengthen the measure. But that is likely to be difficult in the narrowly divided Senate. And some fear that the bill's sponsors will make "further concessions to an already compromised bill," said Frank O'Donnell of Clean Air Watch.

Environmentalists worry that industry groups are eager for action this year only because they think they stand a better chance of shaping a bill to their liking than if a measure were to be crafted after the November election.

"The political reality is -- and I think it's unfortunate -- today in the United States Senate, we do not have a 60-vote majority on a strong global warming bill," said Chris Miller, director of Greenpeace USA's global warming campaign. "The only way you move anywhere close to getting the 60 votes you need is to weaken the bill even further."

For that reason, some want to wait. "The odds are pretty good that whoever is the next president is going to take a better position on global warming than Bush," O'Donnell said. "That in itself makes you wonder, is it wise to race ahead?"

But Tony Kreindler of Environmental Defense warned that environmentalists should push for action now rather than "rolling the dice" on whether the political climate will improve. "Climate right now is very much at the top of the congressional agenda," he said, "and you've got to ride that momentum when you have it."

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What's stronger in you?



Erin E. Ethier

Psychology Columnist

It amazes me that a person can change so much from one year to the next. Changes happen so gradually that it might not even be apparent right away, but looking back at yourself can be a harrowing experience, especially if you realize the changes you made too late

Lance Armstrong, seven-time winner of the Tour de France and a survivor of cancer, asks a great question in his autobiography: "What is stronger, fear or hope?" I love this quote not only for the philosophical aspect of it, but because it's such an important question to ask yourself.

If fear is stronger than your hope, is that okay? Do we need to be completely fearless to obtain hope? Through my own experience, I don't think so. I believe that fear and hope coincide. You can't have hope if you don't have fear and vice-versa. But there tends to be a point in life when you have to assess how much fear you act on.

Without divulging too much, I realized this past weekend that no matter how much fear I have, it's the hope that I have to focus on. You can act on your fears as much as you want to, but in the end you're just left with regret. I would rather be left with a shred of hope than any amount of regret. Though every person is different, I wouldn't expect that he or she would rather live with fear and regret, but with optimism and hope. So I answer Lance's question for myself; fear may be stronger but it's the fight for hope that eventually takes over and wins.

It's okay if you spent too much time in the past acting on your fears. If you did, you are not alone. As strong as your fears may be, don't forget the seeds of hope that you can control. Don't let another year pass that you look back on and regret. Allow yourself to look back and be proud of getting past fear.

As Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." And as I learned, be the change you wish to see in yourself.

Candidates should address teen sexuality



Kristi Mientka

Voice Columnist

The race for the presidential nominations is in full swing. Now is the time when candidates are campaigning furiously, and journalists are hot on their trails. It's a time of discussion and debate, of mudslinging and doublespeak. But I'm not going to write about Obama's or McCain's campaign tactics today. My column today is actually inspired by, of all things, a movie. But in essence, it's about an issue the candidate who takes over the helm of this country is going to have to deal with—in a big way.

You might have seen "Juno," the little indie movie that's become a huge box-office success and has received several Oscar nominations. It's a sweet, well-written and well-acted film, and you should definitely see it if you haven't already.

In the movie, Ellen Page plays 16-year-old Juno MacGuff, who unintentionally becomes pregnant by her best friend and decides to give up the baby for adoption. (Doesn't exactly sound like comedy material, does it? But it works. And I digress.)

Pregnancy seems to be a popular theme in the movies lately. The hit films "Knocked Up" and "Waitress"—also comedies—both deal with unexpected parenthood.

"Juno," though, is the only one that touches on teenage pregnancy, which occurs quite often in this country of ours. It's been all over the news lately. The highly publicized pregnancies of teenage actress Keisha Castle-Hughes, and of Britney Spears' 16-year-old sister Jamie Lynn, made tabloid headlines this past year. According to UNICEF, the United States has the highest teen-birth rate in the developed world.

So what's going on?

The way I see it, we're in denial. Too often, adults try to deny the fact that teenagers are sexually active. But the more they try to sweep it under the rug—and the less they tell teens about sex—the worse it's going to get.

Human beings reach mature sexuality in the teenage years. What good is it doing to pretend this isn't happening? None. Telling young people they shouldn't have sex at all, instead of giving them the resources and the knowledge to be responsible and safe, is not the answer in this situation.

Right now, as the battle for the White House rages, the fate of our country is uncertain. But one thing's for sure: We need a leader who's going to address this issue. Someone who realizes that the only way to prevent the tremendous problem of unplanned pregnancy is to educate young people about how to be responsible. Our greatest hope is a leader who will see the thousands of young women who are raising children alone, often under the poorest and most difficult circumstances, and realize that something needs to change.

That change can start with education. Juno is a perfect example. She believes she's smarter than everyone around her, and as it turns out, she's not nearly as smart as she thinks she is. Sex-ed class made her laugh with its ridiculous condom-on-a-banana instructional method, and she knows little about adoption. (She tells her baby's adoptive parents, "You should've gone to China, because I hear they give away babies like free iPods. You know, they pretty much just put them in those T-shirt guns and shoot them out at sporting events.") Humorous as these situations may be, they're also a slightly frightening example of ignorance about sexuality.

Luckily for Juno, she has family and friends who support her. Not every young woman who gets pregnant can say the same.

"Juno" has many themes—for example, staying true to yourself, and finding the person who loves you for you. But at the core is a young woman who makes a responsible decision about her own body. That's something everyone should have the resources, and the freedom, to do.

Tattoos: Living the stigmatized life

Vicki Leon
Special to the Los Angeles Times

It's easy to tell when an underground enthusiasm like tattooing goes mainstream. People start referring to those who partake in it as a "community." Then gift cards and conventions make their appearance. Further validation of tattooing comes from cable TV, where enthusiasts -- armchair and otherwise -- now watch and wince at reality shows (five at last count) that explore the illustrated life.

A 2007 Food and Drug Administration report, based on an earlier Harris poll, estimated that 45 million Americans (equally divided between genders) have at least one tattoo. Once restricted mainly to jarheads and jailhouse residents, ink art is now mass market.

There seem to be nearly as many reasons for getting a tattoo as there are adherents. Some are impulse buys -- an 18th birthday, a late-night dare or religious fervor.

Some involve long-term planning -- a striking number of folks view their entire bodies as mural space.

Cupid is the most popular tattoo subject, and the worst, given that many relationships dissolve before the ink is dry on "Devon (heart) Lindsey."

But the range of subjects goes way beyond romance and "Mom." In fact, moms are getting their own tattoos -- Angelina Jolie has the longitude and latitude coordinates of her children's birthplaces on her arm. Video-gamers go for nostalgia, such as Pac-Man or "The Legend of Zelda." Science nerds lean toward transistor schematics or the double helix.

Some sociologists theorize that tattoos, especially ones hidden by clothing, let men and women play with fringe identities without giving up their middle-class status or jeopardizing their jobs. It's a way of saying "I'm unique!" while also gaining acceptance into a special club.

The most profoundly human reasons for body art, though, are ones that even the squeamish and untattooed can relate to. To honor a life-defining event, people endure pain for a permanent reminder. It could be the birth or adoption of a child, the death of a parent or a war buddy, a victory over cancer.



Photo courtesy of www.beautyassist.com/tattoos.html

Or it could be a more private victory, such as the young musician who celebrated his first year of sobriety by getting the "Serenity Prayer" tattooed across his ribs -- his reminder about getting through life one day at a time.

The Greeks and Romans of old likely would have viewed many of the rationales for modern tattoos with astonishment and scorn. To them, a tattoo (called a "stigma") was a mark of visual imprisonment or humiliation.

After the Athenians whipped the Samos islanders in 440 B.C., they carved owls -- symbols of their city -- into the foreheads of the defeated. Athenians later got a taste of their own medicine when they lost a war to Syracuse and were saddled with horse tattoos.

After the Romans saw British tribes inking blue designs onto their skins, they adopted tattooing to identify members of their own military units. These were simple marks or numbers, often pricked into hands or faces.

Tattoos routinely applied to municipal slaves had the same ugly utility.

Social mobility sometimes allowed slaves to become freed people, soldiers to become civilians. Ridding oneself of tattoos afterward, however, was a challenge. Nightmarish "solutions" ranged from caustic poultices to acid baths, from surgery to salt.

With the advent of lasers and other procedures, tattoo removal today is more attainable. A process, spearheaded in Southern California by Homeboy Industries, has helped hundreds of young men struggling to break away from gang life by reworking their jailhouse tattoos or gang insignias into neutral designs.

Despite the mainstream aura and better hygiene of today's illustrated community, I'm troubled by some of its members. Although the Greco-Roman notion of using stigmata to punish or humiliate is ancient history, some people today go to the opposite extreme, believing that a tattoo buys them instant outlaw chic.

A $150-an-hour statement in pigment may be permanent, but sometimes it fails to be more than skin deep.

Voices Overheard

What was your favorite TV show as a kid?



Heidi Uliasz
Class of 2008
Communication

"Rugrats and Legends of the Hidden Temple."



Justin Durand
Class of 2009
Psychology

"Scooby Doo."



Lizz Raff
Class of 2010
English

"Rocko's Modern Life...hands down!"



Tiago Pereira
Class of 2010
Criminal Justice & Economics

"Mighty Morphin Power Rangers."

Compiled by Colby Henderson & Jeff Dale

Making the case for black colleges

JOE PETTIT
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we just celebrated, moved a nation to confront the legacy of slavery, the consequences of legalized segregation and the devastation of racial inequality -- including educational inequality. His abiding legacy provides a challenging context for the recent debate over the proper role of historically black colleges and universities in American higher education.

Some argue that historically black colleges and universities are unnecessary and ineffective. After all, in the decades since King's assassination, black Americans have gained greater access to colleges and universities. Moreover, black students at majority-white institutions appear to have better graduation rates than at some historically black colleges, and many people, including some black students, believe that historically black colleges are not academically rigorous.

Almost 40 years after King's death, and with the serious challenges facing historically black colleges and universities, some citizens and legislators might conclude that significant investment in supporting and improving historically black universities is no longer appropriate.

Such a conclusion, however, would be mistaken. The value and mission of historically black colleges and universities should not be judged from the conditions that produced them but rather from the crucial role they still play in reducing racial inequality and in meeting educational, business and leadership needs.

Historically black colleges and universities provide opportunity for those who have been underserved by public educatioo systems and by their communities, and a community where one can learn about and with those who exemplify the highest ideals of education. They perform this dual mission in a way that is simply not possible by relying solely on community colleges and traditional, majority-white institutions.

This mission is necessary because far too many predominantly black communities remain isolated from opportunity as a result of poverty -- and poverty affects blacks and whites differently. According to the



Photo courtesy of www.princeton.edu/primiki

Russell Sage Foundation, fewer than 1 percent of white children are poor for 10 years or more, but 29 percent of black children experience such long-term poverty. One in three poor black children is still poor at ages 25 to 27, but the rate is one in 14 for poor white children.

Often, great black minds go unnourished and undeveloped within the schools found in these communities. And there are still powerful public forces, most notably within the criminal punishment system and the housing market, that isolate many black families and exacerbate racial inequality.

While our nation has done much to reject the legacy of slavery, segregation and racism, stigma remains a powerful force restricting opportunity in ways that potentially affect all black people.

Despite achievements by blacks in all fields, the violence, crime and unemployment that occur in some predominantly black neighborhoods continue to color the perception of all blacks by many others.

Given these realities, historically black colleges and universities are vital public institutions for creating counter-forces of opportunity and for challenging stigmatization with examples of student and faculty achievement.

Advancing both of these objectives is no easy task. Often, the students from underserved communities most capable of taking advantage of what historically black colleges and universities have to offer cannot afford to attend them without significant financial aid. Recruiting and retaining the faculty who can best achieve excellence in education and scholarship are difficult when these faculty members have greater teaching loads and fewer resources than their counterparts at majority-white institutions.

Because of the shortcomings of the public education many black students receive, it is not possible to know which students will thrive at historically black colleges and universities. But a commitment to access for the underserved requires a willingness to take risks that are not taken at less-open institutions.

Given this context, graduation rates do not provide meaningful comparisons. Selectivity also fails to correlate to academic rigor.

Now is the time to rally to the cause of historically black colleges and universities -- not to question their necessity. Now is the time to respond to the challenges facing historically black colleges and universities -- not to exacerbate their difficulties by reducing or withholding support.

Ledger's death is ruled an accidental overdose

Paul Lieberman
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK -- Heath Ledger died of an accidental "abuse of prescription medications," the New York City Medical Examiner's Office said Wednesday in releasing the results of toxicology tests performed on tissue taken from the actor's body two weeks ago.

Some type of overdose had been suspected as the cause of death since a masseuse found the 28-year-old Australian star's unconscious body in his Soho loft Jan. 22, with sleeping pills near his bed and other prescription drugs around the 4,000-square-foot apartment. The lab tests were conducted after an autopsy the next day proved inconclusive.

"Mr. Heath Ledger died as the result of acute intoxication by the combined effects of oxycodone, hydrocodone, diazepam, temazepam, alprazolam and doxylamine," the medical examiner's spokeswoman, Ellen Borakove, said in a written statement.

"We have concluded that the manner of death is accident, resulting from the abuse of prescription medications."

The list of generic names refer to drugs more commonly known as the painkillers OxyContin and Vicodin, the anti-anxiety medications Valium and Xanax, and the sleeping pill Restoril, while Unisom is an antihistamine commonly used as a sleeping aid.

New York police reported at the time of death that Ledger was found to be unresponsive after he failed to answer knocks on his door and cell-phone calls from the masseuse, Diana Wolozin. A police spokesman said that although the sleeping pills and other prescription drugs were found at the scene, there was no sign of foul play and Ledger left no note.

The actor had rented the luxury loft following his split last September from actress Michelle Williams, with whom he had lived in Brooklyn along with their infant daughter.

Although a call to 911 was delayed while the panicked masseuse tried to revive Ledger herself and used the actor's phone to call actress Mary-Kate Olsen in California, authorities have said they do not believe he could have been saved had an emergency crew immediately appeared.

Almost immediately after the release of the medical examiner's findings Wednesday, Ledger's father, Kim, issued an emotional statement urging others to use prescription drugs with caution, and appealing again for privacy for the actor's family.

"We remain humble as parents and a family, among millions of people worldwide who may have suffered the tragic loss of a child," said the statement, released through a Los Angeles publicist. "Few can understand the hollow, wrenching, and enduring agony parents silently suffer when a child predeceases them. Today's results put an end to speculation, but our son's beautiful spirit and enduring memory will forever remain in our hearts.

"While no medications were taken in excess, we learned today the combination of doctor-prescribed drugs proved lethal for our boy. Heath's accidental death serves as a caution to the hidden dangers of combining prescription medication, even at low dosage," it added.

"Our family enjoyed an extremely happy two-week visit with Heath just prior to the New Year. Those recent precious days will stay with us forever. We as a family feel privileged to have some of his amazing magic moments captured in film. To most of the world, Heath was an actor of immeasurable talent and promise. To those who knew him personally, Heath was a consummate artist whose passions also included photography, music, chess and directing. We knew Heath as a loving father, as our devoted son, and as a loyal and generous brother and friend.

"We treasure our beautiful granddaughter Matilda (to our dear Michelle) as well as an unbelievably wonderful network of close friends, forever, around the world. Families rarely experience the uplifting, warm and massive outpouring of grief and support as have we, from every corner of the planet. This has deeply and profoundly touched our hearts and lives. We are eternally grateful.

"At this moment we respectfully request the worldwide media allow us time to grieve privately, without the intrusions associated with press and photography."

Medical experts also warned of the dangers of mixing prescription drugs.

"All the medications listed are narcotic painkillers or are used as tranquilizers, anti-anxiety drugs or sleeping medications. Those medications can have a synergistic effect and can reduce the breathing rate to bring on death," said Richard A. Rawson, a professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles, and associate director of its Integrated Substance Abuse Programs.

"For someone taking medication for sleep and pain on a regular basis, it is possible to take them and to become intoxicated," he said in a telephone interview.

"Those drugs are very widely used, prescribed and considered to have a relatively good safety profile. But if you take enough of them, taken in combination with opiates, you can get an overdose death.

"In this case, someone had legitimate prescriptions and simply made an error in dosing himself, a tragic error."

Ledger had made no secret of his use of prescription drugs to help him manage a life that was stressful and hectic, for all his fame.

He had just gotten back from London, where he was filming Terry Gilliam's "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," and recently finished his work on "The Dark Knight," the new Batman film opening July 18, which has him following in the on-screen footsteps of Jack Nicholson as the Joker.



Photo courtesy of www.bubbahunks.com

It was a difficult and physical role for Ledger, who told The New York Times in November that he was having trouble sleeping as he was finishing the shoot: "Last week I probably slept an average of two hours a night," he said at the time. "I couldn't stop thinking. My body was exhausted, and my mind was still going." He described taking two Ambien sleeping pills and falling into a stupor, then waking up an hour later.

That same month, in a videotaped junket interview with The Envelope, the Los Angeles Times' awards-show Web site, Ledger was clearly slurring and unfocused as he discussed his role in "I'm Not There," a film in which a series of actors portray Bob Dylan.

In a 2005 Times interview, Ledger noted that his art came from a place of discomfort: "I like to do something I fear. I like to set up obstacles and defeat them. I like to be afraid of the project. I always am. When I get cast in something, I always believe I shouldn't have been cast. I fooled them again. I can't do it. I don't know how to do it. There's a huge amount of anxiety that drowns out any excitement I have toward the project."

Following the autopsy on his body Jan. 23, Borakove, the spokeswoman for the city medical examiner, said it would take 10 days to two weeks for the results of toxicology and tissue tests to determine what killed the actor who won wide acclaim for his portrayal of a gay cowboy in 2005's "Brokeback Mountain."

The masseuse and Ledger's housekeeper, Teresa Solomon, who also was in the Broome Street loft when Ledger's body was discovered, were both questioned by police but have not been accused of wrongdoing.

Since Ledger's death, memorial services have been held in New York and Los Angeles. His body was flown to his hometown of Perth, Australia, for burial in a family plot.

Williams issued her first public comment on the death last Friday, saying that part of Ledger's legacy would be their 2-year-old daughter, Matilda, "the most tender-hearted, high-spirited, beautiful little girl who is the spitting image of her father. All that I can cling to is his presence inside her that reveals itself every day," Williams said in a statement.

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Cross country runs in the family

Rebecca Everett
Sports Reporter

For John and Andy Messer, running track started out as just a way to stay in shape for soccer try-outs in the fall. When the twins failed to make the soccer team their sophomore year of high school, they joined the cross country team instead. Seven years later, the Messer twins are the star runners of Westfield State College's track and field and cross country teams, and have been recognized all over New England.

Westfield natives, they have been All-Conference in the Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference for both track and cross country. In addition, Andy received All New England honors this fall by finishing in the top 35 at the NCAA Division III New England regional cross country championships, an honor that his brother, John, just missed, finishing 36th.

"All New England is a great achievement," John said. "But I found that we were more excited to win MASCACs as a team because we were all able to be part of the big win. That's what brought us closer together as a team and that's what I see as being most important."

Westfield State's mens' cross country team won the Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference this fall for the second year in a row.

"They're both fantastic individuals to work with," Coach Bob Rausch said of the Messers. "They're wonderful runners, and probably more important, wonderful human beings."

The brothers were co-captains of the cross country team this fall, a responsibility that Rausch said they handled very well. "They're very personable and well-liked by everyone," Rausch said. "They're team-oriented."

"Being a captain took a lot of work," Andy said. "I realized that after being a captain sophomore year and then losing that position my junior year. Senior year I knew I had to be more mature and show more discipline and leadership."

John said of their leadership, "We kind of follow the quote by Confucius 'A superior man is modest in his speech but exceeds in his actions." Rausch puts it simply "they're quiet but set a good example."

Contrary to the quiet image of the captains is the unconventional pre-race ritual that they devised this season. When asked about funny stories or rituals, John said, "The best one from this year would be our cheer which my brother thought of. He used the Beastie Boys song 'Time to Get Ill.'

"Before each race we formed a circle and Andy shouted 'What's the time?' and we all shouted back 'It's time to get ill!'" John remembered.

John and Andy have a unique relationship as twins and teammates. "They're competitive with each other," Rausch said. "But are always willing to let the other win. There are never any hard feelings."

The twins agreed. "Having my brother as a teammate is awesome," John said. "We both push each other to do better, not just in races but in practice as well."

Andy agreed that the two challenge and support each other. He won the Outstanding Contributor Award two years in a row, and said, "I have to say my brother pushed me all the way into achieving it."

"We consider ourselves both a team and family, no matter what," John said.

John is a senior Geography and Regional Planning major, while Andy is a senior Business major. "Our plans for the future are somewhat unclear right now," John said. "But we intend on taking another half semester here at Westfield State."

As for running, John said, "We both plan on running the Boston Marathon in the near future, so our running will continue."

Andy said his future plans for running include continuing to run local long distance races and "eventually do some unique cross country races that take place around the nation."

The brothers agreed that what they love about running is the personal challenge and seeing their hard work pay off. "It taught us discipline and gave us a certain satisfaction of our hard work," John said. "Our training routines can be very tough at times, but in both track and cross country it takes a lot of patience and discipline to see results."

Andy said that his personal view of running is that a runner should bold nothing back. "Leave nothing out there when you run. You should always have nothing left when you finish that race."

PATRIOTS SUFFER GIANT BLOW

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

The Patriots couldn't overtake Eli Manning and the New York Giants. With less than a minute left in the 4th quarter, the Giants scored a touchdown that would seal their Superbowl victory.

It was easy to see that Tom Brady wasn't having his best game. Brady was sacked five times during the game, and overthrew a number of passes to Randy Moss. However, one Patriot that did seem to have the game of his life was Wes Welker. His receptions and rushes kept the Patriots offense in the game, for a little while anyway.

A Patriot victory seemed possible in the 4th quarter, when the score was 14-10. The play that I believe was the Patriots' downfall was when Manning had the ball and a crowd of Patriots defensemen surrounded Manning, but weren't able to sack him. With multiple players around Manning, the Patriots should have had the sack. That is where everything went wrong.

Even though the Patriots lost the Super Bowl, they still managed to have an undefeated season. That's something to brag about. No other 2008 team can say that they also had an undefeated season.

Some people say that the reason the Patriots lost is because Bill Belichick wasn't wearing his famous gray sweatshirt with the cut sleeves. Instead, he was wearing a red one. Who knows what would have happened if Belichick had been wearing his gray sweatshirt, the one he wore to every other game of the season.

Another superstition I have heard from Pats fans was the hope of Eli Manning having a bad game because his big brother, Peyton, was in attendance. It has come out in recent weeks that Peyton attended one of Eli's games in the regular season, and in that game Eli threw four interceptions. Therefore, it was rumored that Peyton was told to stay home during the playoffs. That hope didn't play out well for Pats fans.

Unfortunately, the Giants had a better game than the Pats did. Manning and the Giants got the best of Brady and the Patriots. It looks like Patriots fans will have to wait until next year for another championship.

On a brighter note, pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training in five days.

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

As a New England native and a lifetime Patriots fan, last Sundays game was frustrating, exciting, humbling and depressing all rolled into one. It was a Super Bowl to remember for some, and one to be forgotten for others.

It was Frustrating because of how the Patriots record breaking offense played. Exciting because for about a minute in the fourth quarter I thought the Pats had the game won. It was Humbling because as a Boston sports fan I had not felt this bitter of a defeat since Boone's homerun. It was Depressing not just because they lost, but also because they lost to another Manning.

Going into Super bowl XLII the New England Patriots were 18-0, AFC East Champions, AFC Conference Champions and one game away from perfection. Now they go home empty handed. They will not get the thrill of being a World Champion for the fourth time. Boston will not get the thrill of another parade and they will not get the anointment of "Best Team Ever." Sorry to tell the truth because sometimes, the truth hurts.

Around these parts the New York Giants are a team with an interesting following. Going back to the days before New England had a pro foothall team to root for, the Giants were the team to watch. In the Patriots inaugural season in 1960, the Giants were often telecast throughout New England. You can guess this created many Giants fans in the New England area. It also created a lot of Giant haters, like my dad, and this sentiment was passed on to me.

This game will go down in infamy as one of the biggest upsets in sports history, if not the biggest. Up there with USA 4 USSR 3, Patriots vs. Rams in Super bowl XXXVI, and Super bowl III. It might also go down as one of the biggest choke jobs ever. Up there with Buckner, the 1978 Red Sox collapse, the Yankees famous 3-0 collapse in the 04 playoffs and now this Super bowl. What's up with this Boston vs. New York rivalry? It's not just fun to watch, but there seems to always he the inevitable heartbreaking game.

Even with so many people claiming that this Patriots team choked, I believe it was a product of the sport. Football is a game that is won and lost in the trenches and as they say "on any given Sunday" anything is possible. I just wish that "Sunday" didn't have to be this past Super bowl Sunday.

Also saying that the Patriots "choked" implies that the Giants had no business winning the Super Bowl, that maybe it was a fluke and the Patriots gave the game away. Lets be honest and give them all their due: to be the best you have to beat the best and they certainly did. Yes the best statistical offense ever only scored 14 points. Yes the team that was 18-0 lost to a team that was 10-6 through the regular season. Yes, the Patriots were 12 point favorites before the game, but guess what? You still have to play the game.

You have to respect many of the Giants players like Michael Strahan who has played his whole career for the Giants. He knows what it's like to lose a Super Bowl and he came back to the team for one final season. He now gets to walk away from the game the best possible way, a World Champion; a player like him deserves that honor. You also have to respect Tom Coughlin who went through the Tiki Barber saga last year and who also had the testicular fortitude to keep his starters in the whole game against the Patriots in week 17. I even respect Eli Manning, who I truly did not think had that last drive in him. I was wrong and I respect him for changing my mind because thats what sports are about.

This Super Bowl was the second highest rated show in the history of television. It was a game for the ages and the Patriots lost. It Certainly adds a new dynamic to the Boston-New York rivalry. And, hey, remember two things: there's always next year and we still have the Celtics.



Happy Valentine's Day!

Fri 02/08	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Par Gym	Senior Night 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall	Table Tennis Tournament 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 02/09	Mens and Womens Basketball vs. Worcester 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Intramurals 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Card & Game Night 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 02/10	Sunday Mass 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Intramurals 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Racquetball Ladder Competition 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Wellness Center
Mon 02/11	Spring Break Boot Camp 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wellness Center	RA Interest Meeting 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Scanlon Living Room	Condom Bingo 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall
Tues 02/12	Rock Wall Open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. WDWRD Rock Wall	Ski Trip to Jimmy Peak 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely North Lot	Band "In Time" R&B Performance 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Wed 02/13	BJ's Wholesale Club Special Membership offer 11:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Parenzo Lobby	Class of 2009 Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ely SGA Conference Room	Movvie Night 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Scanlon Living Room
Thurs 02/14	Class of 2010 Meeting 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ely SGA Conference Room	Rock Wall Open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. WDWRD Rock Wall	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ely SGA Conference Room

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
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Student takes steps to stop drunk driving





Above photo shows the results of a fatal druuk driving accident. Photo courtesy of www.car-accidents.cou

Joe Van Wart, left, is the founder of 75 Pro-Motions

Chris Flood
Layout Editor

WESTFIELD – Westfield State College senior Joe Van Wart has announced the emergence of his new company, 75 Pro-Motions, intended to stop drunk driving while allowing students the chance to party responsibly.

75 Pro-Motions rents bus transportation for students of Westfield State College and transports them to rented out night clubs in an effort to curb student drinking and driving. The company has recently upgraded from using standard yellow school busses to using Coach Busses provided by Connecticut-based Premiere Limousine.

According to a 2005 study by AlcoholAlert.com, 39 percent of Massachusetts car crash fatalities were alcohol related.

"My goal is for everybody to have fun, but my focus is to make sure that it is done responsibly," said Van Wart. "I realized that students wanted to go out to clubs outside of Westfield but that they didn't want to drink and drive, so I made it so they were able to go out, have fun, and get picked up and dropped off right outside their door."

Van Wart has been a contributing member to the Westfield State campus in a variety of other ways, as well. He gathered 1,275 signatures on campus in less than seven days in an effort to have Father Dean's name included for the Father Dean Dining Commons. He is also the president of the newly formed Entrepeneur Club on campus which is backed by Professor Knipes.

75 Pro-Motions is an emerging night life transportation company with club contact in Boston, Canada, Chicopee and Springfield. Its business also includes XS energy drink. Contact Joe Van Wart at joevw14@hotmail.com with any questions.

Top 10 signs John McCain is getting too cocky

1. Cancelled one of his campaign appearances so he wouldn't miss "Lost."

2. Spent the afternoon roughing up Romney supporters.

3. Last night, he blew half the campaign war chest playing internet poker.

4. Already working on his 2012 re-election strategy.

5. Plans to campaign the next three days in "Vodkachusetts."

6. Recently told a voter, "Keep that ugly-ass baby away from me!"

7. Now refers to Mike Huckabee as "Mike Suckebee."

8. Has started yelling, "Bingo!" when he doesn't even have bingo (come on, folks, he's old!)

9. Renamed his campaign bus the "Bite Me Express."

10. Went to Mexico with Jessica Simpson.

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

President prompts total campus wireless access, to be wrapped up by September

Westfield State College has announced that wireless Internet access will be available throughout the campus, indoors and out, by the time classes resume next fall.

President Evan S. Dobelle recently authorized a new project to provide web access for students, faculty, staff, and visitors throughout all 23 buildings and outdoor areas on the 256-acre campus.

"Westfield is committed to providing absolutely the best technology available for teaching and learning," said Dobelle, who discussed the project at his first meeting with the college's Board of Trustees on Feb. 7. "This is a top priority. We believe it will make a big difference in allowing students and faculty to do research, participate in on-line classes, and check academic records, anywhere and any time on our campus."

The flexibility to link to the web in all campus facilities will be a boon to faculty, allowing for academic advising in a coffee shop, or holding computer-dependent classes outdoors, for example.

Commuting students in particular need this kind of technology support, Dobelle said. Students who do not live on campus now rely on the college's computer labs. Expanding their wireless capabilities will allow them to work on-line more comfortably between classes—even in their parked cars.

In addition, college guests and visiting businesspeople will be able to connect to the web for e-mail and presentations in all offices and auditoriums, an asset for meetings and conferences held on campus.

Currently, wireless Internet access at Westfield State is limited to academic buildings, the Ely Library and Campus Center, the dining commons and Scanlon Banquet Hall.

The president's wireless project will accelerate a plan to bring wireless connections to all nine residence halls, the campus green, athletic fields and even areas of nearby Stanley Park—so often visited by students for recreation on warm afternoons that they refer to it as "Stanley Beach."

"I think it's a great idea," said Sarah O'Donnell, a senior biology major from South Boston, who has had a laptop computer on campus since her freshman year. "People on a nice day could sit outside and use their computers. I could check my grades and everything on my laptop."

Dobelle said that more widespread wireless connections will not only help faculty and students in academic pursuits, but also will increase students' fluency with hardware and skills they will use in post-graduation careers.

"Laptops are common tools of the trade in education, business and the arts," he said.

Westfield State will implement the upgrade to Internet services with a combination of outsourced labor and the college's own information technology and facilities personnel, said Chris Hirtle, executive director of information technology at the college. They will work from now through summer to complete the project by the opening of the fall semester, Sept. 2, 2008, he said.

"Wireless Internet and network access is something today's students expect," Hirtle said. "We are pleased to be able to provide this service to them."

Pictures from Around Campus is back! Pages 8 & 9



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We see Paris, we see London ... we see *Westfield*?

Successful program looks to get bigger and better

Josh Silvia
Voice Reporter

Does traveling the world, learning different cultures and getting an education all at the same time sound appealing?

If yes, then you are in luck because Westfield State now has a dedicated president and a faculty working hard to improve the study abroad program. President Evan S. Dobelle has evaluated and analyzed Westfield State College over the past few weeks. A typical president might make quick fixes or changes that would make temporary splashes in the headlines and open eyes. Westfield State's new president is not typical, ordinary or looking short term. The president is looking long term and one program he hopes to improve is the study abroad program.

With the help of George Psychas, director of International education, the long-term plan is hopefully right around the corner.

For the study abroad program to improve and have a long term plan set in stone there must be certain actions to take place. One of the main issues with any programs is cost. The president plans to make it affordable so every student can enjoy the experience of the study abroad program.

However, how many students on campus can honestly say they know where to get information on the program? More importantly, how many students on campus know where Psychas office is? It is in Parenzo Hall, room 214. Check it out sometime, you might stumble upon something that peeks your interest.

One of the first steps is getting people aware of the program. President Dobelle has intentions of travel seminars and guest speakers. He also plans to meet faculty and students to spread the word about the program.

"I'm excited a president might take action, there have been eighteen previous presidents and not one has initiated a program," Psychas said.

As for Psychas, he has also done his part by sending out emails, putting up posters and having it mentioned at freshman orientation. If people are not aware of a program and it's intentions then how can it be successful?

The study abroad program has the will, power and determination in order to be successful. Psychas and Dobelle have a vision and plan that is set up for success. Both men believe that the college has the talent within the faculty to actually establish our own study abroad program. Currently, the Westfield State Study Abroad Program runs through CCIS (College Consortium for International Studies).

In the coming years, Psychas and Dobelle plan to have our own program, which could pay big dividends. "I want kids in other countries to come here for an American degree," Dobelle said. Students dream of going to Paris and London but hopefully soon we can return the favor and have foreign students study in America, and more importantly, in Westfield at our institution. At this point, you might still be saying to yourself what is the big deal about the study abroad program?

Study abroad will open your eyes to new experiences, become more open-minded and learn different aspects of people around the world.

"I highly recommend studying abroad, it was a great experience and it helps you grow as a person," said Emily Olson, a junior. Olson saw the sights and sounds of France, Portugal, Spain and England this past fall. Other places she encountered were Italy, Greece and Switzerland.

It is important to not only understand the learning experience but the morale values you will learn while abroad. "It is important in America to understand difference. We stereotype people and we need to over come that," Dobelle said. Studying abroad is an experience of a lifetime and one with many lessons learned. One lesson hopefully learned would be students being more open minded, accepting of different people and where they come from.

If a program is affordable, well-known and have people with a passion and vision running it, how can you go wrong? Especially, having a program of our own with possible students from other countries coming here, we could be a model figure when it comes to study abroad.

The president, Psychas, faculty, and students have the talent and potential to make Westfield a top notch, long term study abroad program. When people think of great study abroad programs, Paris and London immediately come to mind.

Hopefully, with hard work and dedication Westfield State College will be joining them in the near future.

Editor's Desk



It's sad, that on a Tuesday afternoon, I'm sitting in the Voice office, contemplating what I want to write for this week's Editor's Desk, and watching "The King of Queens." The only time I CAN watch television is when I'm here. I also eat most of my meals in here, make phone calls and occassionally nap in here. Basically, I live in this office.

My entire senior year is based around how I can get this paper out. Sometimes, I believe my roommates when they tell me I'm crazy.

The thing is, I'm not sure what I'm going to do once May roles around. No more deadlines to meet, no more phone calls to return to advertisers, no longer editing student pieces, laying out the pages. I can only hope a newspaper will offer me a job to do just that, once I graduate.

And as my friend reminded me today, only 12 weeks until graduation.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Westfield State Slam Team competes in Regional Competition

Andrew Martin
Voice Reporter

Any meteorologist might have said to stay home and try to avoid traveling at any point of the day. Even with this advice, a green van owned by Westfield State, left campus at 3 p.m. and headed for Boston. The green van was driven by English professor Leah Nielsen, and held the four students that made up the Westfield State Poetry Slam Team, as well as a small cheering squad. They were headed to Boston University to participate in the Association of College Unions International Poetry Slam.

The Westfield team met three other teams when they arrived at Boston University. They were competing against Dartmouth, Emerson and Berklee. The competition was split up into four rounds, with a different poet representing each team once a round. There were five judges picked at random before the competition. The the lowest and the highest scores dropped.

The slam showeased Boston University graduate, Jonathan Chin. Chin is currently a karate instructor and poet living in New York City. He performed poetry from his new book of poetry which was on sale at the event.

The slam started at 8:30 p.m. and went on for two hours. Each team had talented poets showcasing their best material. Slam poetry is a performance art and the poets kept this in mind. There were strong performances from Westfield State team members Meaghan Brennan, Alan-Michael Chest, and Keyanna Fowler going in the second, third and fourth rounds respectively.

When it came to the final scores Westfield State may not have come out the way they wanted to but they put forth a strong effort. They were able to gain experience that will help them in future slams.

The Westfield State team was comprised of freshmen and sophomores, while the other schools sent older poets with more slams under their belts. The Westfielders left somewhat down but optimistic for the future as they hope to make slam poetry a bigger piece of the culture at this western Massachusetts campus.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Extended hours at the Dining Commons



Scraping layers of ice off of your car

Google named entry level technology employer of choice by CollegeGrad.com

College grad job seekers choose Google as their preferred employer over Apple, Microsoft, Yahoo! and IBM

MILWAUKEE, WI--Feb. 7, 2008-- CollegeGrad.com, the #1 entry level job site, today released its poll results revealing Google as the top choice technology employer among entry level job seekers.

While the takeover bid by Microsoft of Yahoo! dominates technology news, Google remains the most highly sought after technology employer by college grad job seekers. Fourty-five percent of poll respondents indicated they would most like to work for Google. Apple finished at 25 percent, Microsoft at 17 percent, Yahoo! at 7 percent and IBM at 6 percent.

What separates Google from the others?

"They have a well established reputation for providing an inspiring, creative, and innovative employee atmosphere," said Brian Krueger, president of CollegeGrad.com. "With novel benefits added to the mix, top talent worldwide will seek to become a part of their vision."

For the third year in a row, Google has beat out Microsoft as the technology employer of choice among entry level job seekers. Apple also finished ahead of Microsoft in this year's poll. Although Microsoft has long had an edge in recruiting top entry level talent, that edge is shifting among the millennial generation as they search not only for stability, but entrepreneurial opportunities within established organizations.

"We are witnessing a profound change in employer preference as college students buy into opportunities to be a part of the next wave of Internet innovation," said Krueger. "As Google and Apple establish themselves not only as market leaders, but employment leaders, they are able to lead the recruiting of top technical talent."

CollegeGrad.com recently released projections for entry level hiring to increase 11.8 percent in 2008. If those projections are met, entry level job seekers will have even more opportunities with top technical employers.

Following are the overall poll results:

Who would you rather work for?

- Google - 45 percent
- Apple - 25 percent
- Microsoft - 17 percent
- Yahoo! - 7 percent
- IBM - 6 percent

The survey was conducted nationally using an online poll placed on the CollegeGrad.com home page during October, 2007. The results are based on more than 2,600 respondents.

SEMESTER AT SEA®

Information Session

Wednesday, Feb.20, 2008, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
New Hall Classroom 141B

Students: Are you interested in an international study abroad opportunity where you can travel around the world on a ship and earn college credit?

Faculty and Staff: Are you interested in a sabbatical or education leave to travel the world on a ship with 700 college and university students?

Learn how you can take a voyage of discovery and meet a student, a professor and two staff members from Westfield State College who have all experienced this life changing trip around the world.

Please join us to learn more about Semester at Sea®, an international study abroad program academically sponsored by the University of Virginia.

Representative Humason seeking legislative interns

Don Humason, Jr., Westfield's State Representative, is seeking interns who are interested in gaining knowledge about state and local government by working in his Westfield district office or State House office.

The ideal intern is usually a college or high school student who receives some sort of school credit for the structured internship experience. Retired individuals may also find the work interesting and rewarding.

Positions are available immediately. Preference will be given to individuals from Westfield.

"I make sure that interns in my office are actively involved in nearly every aspect of running the office -- from researching legislation to tracking bills to reading newspaper articles to answering constituent correspondence," Humason said. "Interns will work along with me and my legislative aide Sarah Latour."

The positions are unpaid and non-partisan. There are no party requirements.

A resume, references or writing sample may be required.

"The hours are flexible, the work is varied, interesting and often rewarding" Humason added. "If you or someone you know is interested please contact me at my district office, telephone number 568-1366."

Award-winning poet to speak on campus

MOLLY PAPPAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Patricia Smith, published poet and four-time national winner of the National Poetry Slam, will be giving a poetry reading as part of Westfield State's Guest Lecture Series, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Scanlon Living Room.

Smith was featured in the movie, "Slamnation," and has also appeared on HBO's original series "Def Poetry Slam."

"I'm honored and thrilled to have a poet of Smith's caliber perform at Westfield State," said professor Leah Nielsen of the English department.

Smith was inducted into the International Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent in 2006, and has received several literary awards for her poems. Currently, Smith is working on a book of poems about the emotional aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



Photo courtesy of www.blueflowerarts.com/psmith.html

"She is a dynamic performer who does not hesitate to address social and political concerns through her poetry. Her poetry is as brave as it is beautiful," Neilsen said.

Nielsen hopes that Smith's appearance on campus will be a positive experience and encourage WSC students to perform in the campuses own poetry slams. "As we've been working on the continued growth of our campus poetry slams, I felt it was time to bring a performance poet to campus," she said.

The Guest Lecture Series events are free and open to the public. Smith's performance is "an excellent opportunity for the greater western Massachusetts community to see an engaging performer of national acclaim," Neilsen added.

Campus Transportation and Traffic:

* There will be a police officer stationed at the Commute Lot to direct traffic out of the Lot at the busiest times (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) on Monday through Friday.
* We will have a second Public Safety Shuttle deployed to transport students from Main Campus to the South Lot, 333, and the Woodward Center during the busy afternoon /evening times of 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
* The regular campus shuttle service will also be extending their transport on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2 a.m. until 3 a.m.

Food Service Hours:

* The Dining Commons hours will be extended seven days a week until 8 p.m. with full service during those hours.
* Jazzman's Café will also be extending their hours until 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will be working on adding weekend hours.
* A food service survey will be going out to all students by the end of the month to gather additional feedback from you on ways to improve campus food service venues. We encourage you to respond to this survey when it is sent out.

Can the world afford a middle class?

Moses Naim
Special to the Los Angeles Times

The middle class in poor countries is the fastest-growing segment of the world's population. While the planet's total population will increase by about a billion people in the next 12 years, the ranks of the middle class will swell by as many as 1.8 billion -- 600 million just in China.

Homi Kharas, a researcher at the Brookings Institution, estimates that by 2020, the world's middle class will grow to include 52 percent of the total population, up from 30 percent. The middle class will almost double in the poor countries where sustained economic growth is fast lifting people above the poverty line.

While this is, of course, good news, it also means humanity will have to adjust to unprecedented pressures. The rise of a new global middle class is already having repercussions.

Last month, 10,000 people took to the streets in Jakarta to protest skyrocketing soybean prices. And Indonesians were not the only people angry about the rising cost of food. In 2007, pasta prices sparked street protests in Milan. Mexicans marched against the price of tortillas. Senegalese protested the price of rice, and Indians took up banners against the price of onions. Argentina, China, Egypt, Venezuela and Russia are among the nations that have imposed controls on food prices in an attempt to contain a public backlash.

These protesters are the most vociferous manifestations of a global trend: We are all paying more for bread, milk and chocolate, to name just a few items. The new consumers of the emerging global middle class are driving up global food prices. The food-price index compiled since 1845 by the Economist is now at its all-time high; it increased 30 percent in 2007 alone. Wheat and soybean prices rose by almost 80 percent and 90 percent, respectively. Many other grains reached record highs.

Prices are soaring not because there is less food (in 2007, the world produced more grains than ever before) but because some grains are now being used as fuel and because more people can afford to eat more. The average consumption of meat in China, for example, has more than doubled since the mid-1980s.

The effect of a fast-growing middle class will be felt in the price of other resources. After all, members of the middle class are also buying more clothes, refrigerators, toys, medicines and eventually will buy more cars and homes. China and India, with nearly 40 percent of the world's population -- most of it still very poor -- already consume more than half of the global supply of coal, iron ore and steel. Thanks to their growing prosperity and that of other countries such as Brazil, Indonesia, Turkey and Vietnam, the demand for these products is booming.

Moreover, a middle-class lifestyle in these developing countries, even if more frugal than what is common in rich nations, is more energy-intensive. In 2006, China added as much electricity as France's total supply. Yet, millions in China lack reliable access to electricity; in India, more than 400 million don't have power. The demand in India will grow fivefold in the next 25 years.

And we know what happened to oil prices. Oil reached its all-time high of $100 a barrel not because of supply constraints but because of unprecedented growth in consumption in poor countries. China alone accounts for one-third of the growth in the world's oil consumption in recent years.

The public debate about the consequences of this global consumption boom has focused on what it means for the environment. Yet its economic and political effects will be significant too. The lifestyle of the existing middle class probably will have to change drastically as the new middle class emerges. The consumption patterns that an American, French or Swedish family took for granted inevitably will become more expensive; driving your car anywhere at any time, for example, might become prohibitively so. That might not be all bad. The cost of polluting water or destroying the environment might be more accurately reflected.

But other dislocations will be more painful and difficult to predict. Changes in migration, urbanization and income distribution will be widespread. And expect growing demands for better housing, health care, education and, inevitably, political participation.

The debate about the Earth's "limits to growth" is as old as Thomas Malthus' alarm about a world in which the population outstrips its ability to feed itself. In the past, pessimists have been proved wrong. Higher prices and new technologies that boosted supplies, like the green revolution, always came to the rescue. That might happen again. But the adjustment to a middle class greater than what the world has ever known is just beginning.

As the Indonesian and Mexican protesters can attest, it won't be cheap. And it won't be quiet.

Two myths about Afghanistan

Ann Marlow
Special to the Washington Post

As Western leaders and Congress debate NATO's responsibilities in Afghanistan, it's time to dissolve two great American illusions about Afghanistan.

The first is that Hamid Karzai is a good president who looks after American interests. The second is that the situation in Afghanistan is going from bad to worse. Both of these unchallenged "facts" are dangerous errors.

Karzai manages by panic, with massive corruption and an absence of vision. It's a tribute to the Afghan people's energy and U.S.-implemented economic regulations and reforms that Afghanistan's gross domestic product has more than doubled since the invasion. But Karzai has sought to derail grass-roots efforts at building democracy and to stifle Afghanistan's nascent civil society, repeatedly siding with fundamentalists against progressives.

Consider his silence at the death sentence recently given to a college student for reprinting an article critical of Islam; Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, the speaker of the upper house of parliament, which initially endorsed the sentence, is close to Karzai.

It's an American illusion that Karzai is Afghanistan's bulwark against the Taliban or ethnic strife. The reverse is more likely. On Aug. 20, 1998, the day the United States sent cruise missiles to kill Osama bin Laden, Karzai told The Post that "there were many wonderful people in the Taliban." Yes. Karzai fought the Taliban — for a month in 2001, when we insisted. But his main interest is in winning re-election, so he has to pander to the worst elements among his Pashtun compatriots. Voting in 2004 followed ethnic patterns. Karzai won 55 percent of the vote but didn't draw a majority from any non-Pashtun group. Karzai's support among Pashtuns and non-Pashtuns alike is much lower today than in 2004. He can't afford to antagonize any Pashtuns, and while most Pashtuns aren't Taliban, all of the Taliban are Pashtuns. So he spent much of the fall offering to negotiate with Taliban chief Mohammad Omar and the vicious warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Today, most Afghans are living in the best conditions they have ever known, slowly growing their country out of poverty. Most of the north and west is peaceful. Much of the east is, too, except some areas that are very undeveloped and very remote or directly border Pakistan's lawless tribal belt. American estimates for the 14 provinces and 158 districts of Regional Command East show that 58 percent of the kinetic activity there last year (direct fire, indirect fire and detonations of improvised explosive devices) occurred in three provinces (Konar, Paktika and Ghazni). Fifty-two percent occurred in 12 of the 158 districts, and about 75 percent took place in 30 of the districts.

The American war in Afghanistan is not a shooting war; most of our casualties are the result of IEDs, which insurgents use because they can't capture and hold territory, or prevail in firefights with American troops or the Afghan National Army (ANA). The numbers are not what many might think: In 2007, there were 89 suicide bombings and 94 car bombings.

Col. Martin Schweitzer, commander of the coalition forces in six provinces in Regional Command East, told me that the ANA has not lost an engagement with the Taliban since last April. Fewer than 300 U.S. soldiers have been killed in action in Afghanistan since the invasion six years ago. We lost 83 soldiers plus two military civilians to hostile causes in 2007, when 24,000 to 27,000 personnel were in country. In 2006, 98 died. The decrease in deaths in action last year is even more significant when you consider the danger our troops were exposed to. American strategy has evolved from concentrating forces in large forward operating bases to building up provincial reconstruction teams in province capitals to establishing combat outposts in district centers (county seats) this past year.

In 2007, the Army's counterinsurgency strategy of stationing platoons in district centers and delivering quick infrastructure aid started to produce visible results for ordinary Afghans in the east. Not all areas in the Pashtun belt are equal — Khost, for instance, is thriving, while Ghazni is still very poor — but security is improving. When Schweitzer took command early last year, 20 of the 85 districts were "green," or on the side of the Afghan government. By year-end, 58 were classified as "green."



Photo courtesy of media.canada.com/canwest/22/092206karzai.jpg

I saw this as an embedded reporter in Ghazni province in November. The young captain in charge of Four Corners, once the "worst neighborhood" in Ghazni, told me that in the spring of 2007 his base had taken fire twice a week, but as of late November it hadn't been rocketed in 60 days.

One reason may be Ghazni's new roads. Roads are development magic, and the U.S. Army is building them like crazy. In Ghazni alone, 10 roads have been funded at a cost of $5 million, and an 11th is in the approval process. Freight truck traffic along Highway 1, which runs from Kabul through Ghazni City to southern Zabol province, more than quadrupled in 2007.

In March, the Army paved a seven-kilometer stretch near Four Corners. This road, nicknamed "Route Rebel," used to be the second worst in Afghanistan for IEDs, which kill far more Afghan civilians and police than they do coalition troops. Daily traffic on "Route Rebel" has gone from 20 to 200 cars. There hadn't been any roadside bombs in eight months when I visited in late November — it's much harder to plant them on asphalt.

Considering where it started, Afghanistan isn't doing too badly. It would be doing much better with a courageous, inspired president committed to honest and transparent government.

Ann Marlowe, a free-lance writer, was embedded with U.S. forces twice in 2007. She has visited Afghanistan nine times since 2002.

Westfield State College Blood Drive

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Tuesday February 20th
1:00pm – 7:00pm

Parenzo Gym

Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE or online at WWW.GIVELIFE.ORG

Appointments can also be made in the Dining Commons

American Red Cross

*Positive ID Required – Walk-ins Welcome

Community Service Clearinghouse. ..www.wsc.ma.edu/communityservice



Volunteers Interns

Step back into the 19th century

for three weekends this summer, as a
Scoreboard Operator, Megaphone Announcer,
Ticket Taker, Usher, Parking Attendant, or Batboy
at the Vintage Base Ball Playoffs & World Series.
Bullens Field - Westfield, MA

Total Time Commitment: 10 very full days

Games start at 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM and last about 3 hours. You need to arrive 3 hours before games and may depart 1 hour after. Doubleheaders can require up to 13 hours. Meals will be provided. Limit of 20 interns. Male or female.

Work Schedule (note: these are estimated times subject to change
Interns/Volunteers must also attend two one day planning sessions in May or June

July 18 - 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM (7 hours)
July 19 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM (13 hours)
July 20 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (7 hours)

July 25 - 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM (7 hours)
July 26 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (7 hours)
July 27 - 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM (11 hours)

August 14 - 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM (7 hours)
August 15 - 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM (7 hours)
August 16 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM (13 hours)
August 17 - 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM (11 hours)

Rain Dates: July 21, 26 and August 18. In the case of a washout, some games may be played on the August 8, 9 and 10 weekend. Interns must have flexible schedules to allow for the bunching of games.

Dress Requirements: Men – Long dark pants (no jeans!). Long sleeved white shirt. Closed shoes (no sandals or sneakers). VBBF will provide suspenders or vests, and newsboy caps. Women – Ankle length skirts. Modest white or ivory blouse with sleeves. Simple closed shoes, or laced boots if you have them (no sandals or sneakers). Picture hat (an inexpensive straw hat can be decorated with a ribbon or scarf, or a few artificial flowers). Note to both men and women: You will need enough changes of clothes to look fresh for each game.

Credit: offers experience in event planning and promotion, theatrical production, marketing, teamwork, and customer relations.

Contact: Paula Kurman 413 528-3314 / paulakurman@gmail.com

Help set up (and take down)
a 19th century ballpark

this summer at Bullens Field in Westfield, MA,
host to the 2nd annual Vintage Base Ball
Playoffs & World Series.

Total Time Commitment: 8 very full days

Description of work: Erect scoreboard and billboard advertising wall, comprised of pre-painted sections. Set up perimeter snow fence. Set up vendor tents and tables. Take down the above after the Playoffs, and repeat two weeks later for the World Series. Some painting may be required. Physical strength is important. Experience with tools is preferred. Meals will be provided. Limit of 10 interns.

Work Schedule

PLAYOFFS

SET UP	TAKE DOWN
July 16 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	July 28 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
July 17 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	July 29 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

SET UP	TAKE DOWN
August 12 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	August 18 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
August 13 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	August 19 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Note: The above dates could be moved forward or back a day or two, depending on the weather. Interns must have flexible schedules.

Dress Requirement: Work clothes. Work gloves will be provided.

Interns will be given free tickets to attend the games.

Credit: offers experience in event management, theatrical staging, set design, use of basic tools, and teamwork.

Contact: Paula Kurman 413 528-3314 / paulakurman@gmail.com

Protestant Chaplin's Column

A characteristic of many people of faith is that the more serious they take their faith, the more disciplined and serious their lives become. It isn't unusual to find such individuals following extensive rituals of fasting and penance.

Jesus' disciples appear to have broken the mold and did not have to follow such traditions or practices.

One of the challenges that gets thrown at Jesus is, "Why don't your disciples fast?" Jesus effectively answers, "As long as I am with them, they cannot fast." I'm probably going to press this further than Jesus intended. According to my beliefs as a Christian, Jesus is with me always. Since this is true, I must always live filled with joy.

There is another passage where Jesus tells his listeners, "If you are going to fast and look miserable, letting everyone know what you are doing; then you have received your reward. On the other hand, if you are going to fast; look clean and well-groomed and keep it private between God and yourself."

In neither case do I believe that Jesus is condemning fasting. Rather I think he is condemning the expectation that individuals starve their bodies and suffer as a requirement of faith. Rather, Jesus stresses that a life of faith lived with a loving God is a joyful affair. God does not want us to suffer. God does not take pleasure in suffering. God wants us to embrace the fullness of life.

This isn't saying that there are not legitimate times and places to fast. Sometimes we may choose to fast in order to be in solidarity with others who are suffering. Sometimes we may choose to fast to remind ourselves that we do not need that which we are denying ourselves. Sometimes we may fast in order to heighten our spiritual sense. Sometimes we may fast to remind ourselves to appreciate the abundance we have. Undoubtedly there are many other good reasons to fast. The point though is that fasting is not an expectation or requirement of our Christian faith. When practiced, it is private and practiced because of a personal spiritual reason.

So, let's return to the main point. Jesus does not encourage his disciples to fast. Rather, he encourages them to embrace the fullness of life. He encourages them to live fully alive as if they are attending a wedding banquet—filled with hope, joy and celebration.

Don't take this as an invitation to go out and party up a storm. It isn't. It is an invitation to live life joyfully because that is how God wants you to live.

As followers of Christ, we enter into his joy and let his joy and love pour into us, filling us to overflowing, so that all we can do is share his love and joy with others.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Ave. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Ave. (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred email is BSchoup@hotmail.com.

New sound hits Northampton

Erica Forish
A&E Columnist

NORTHAMPTON – "To quote Jon Lennon, 'a splendid time is guaranteed for all.'" says Dave DelloRusso. DelloRusso is one of five members of the Primate Fiasco, a group of musicians with a sound so unique that it defies all genres. Modestly described by The Republican as a "Dixieland jazz quintet," the band explains their style as an amalgam of "New Orleans Dixieland infused with funk, rock, disco and just about anything else."

The Primate Fiasco owes its original sound to the variety of instruments played by its members. Abandoning the traditional instrument of the modern pop music scene, the guitar, the band is an all-acoustic combination of vocals, banjo, harmonica, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, tuba and drums. Many of the performances also feature special guests on additional brass and woodwind instruments, the piano and the up-right bass.

Formed in Arizona, the Primate Fiasco relocated to Northampton in 2006. In an interview with The Valley Advocate, DelloRusso notes that the openmindedness of New Englanders to experimental music styles is a pleasant change from the band's reception in AZ. "People are a little more cultured and a little more fun," says DelloRusso. "Many people think, 'Even though this isn't what we normally listen to, we might like it anyway.'"

The band's fan base is as eclectic as its sound. The official web site states, "The style that the Primate Fiasco has developed works like a skeleton key on any group of people and has yet to see a bored audience." College kids, moms and dads, the elderly, punks, thugs, metal heads, pop princesses, techno junkies, jazz musicians and an array of others can all be found in the audience of any given performance.



Reprinted with permission of Dave DelloRusso
© The Primate Fiasco 2008

In an upcoming event, the Primate Fiasco plans to perform its rendition of the Beatle's Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. "I've wanted to deconstruct this album since I was a kid," says DelloRusso. "This project is a way to interpret the fundamental compositions that make these songs great by performing them in styles that they were never intended for."

Local fans and reporters aptly refer to the highly-anticipated performance, billed as Sgt. Primate's Lonely Heart Fiasco, as an "anti-Valentine's Day" event. "It makes a great date for those who have someone," says DelloRusso, "and it makes a funny, spiteful theme (Lonely Hearts) for those who don't."

The performance will take place in downtown Northampton on Feb. 16 at the Iron Horse. Tickets can be charged by phone through the Iron Horse Entertainment Group for $10, or purchased at the door for $13. Due to the Primate Fiasco's growing popularity, it is recommended to reserve tickets in advance. Doors open at 9 p.m. Show begins at 10 p.m. This is an all-ages event.





Photos by Photography Editor, Hugh Mailly

More new episdoes this season?

Lisa de Moraes
The Washington Post

ABC

"According to Jim" — maybe

"Big Shots" — no

"Boston Legal" — maybe

"Brothers & Sisters" — yes

"Carpoolers" — no

"Cashmere Mafia" — maybe

"Cavemen" — no

"Desperate Housewives" — yes

"Dirty Sexy Money" — no

"Grey's Anatomy" — yes

"Lost" — yes

"Notes From the Underbelly" — no

"October Road" — maybe

"Private Practice" — no

"Pushing Daisies" — no

"Samantha Who?" — yes

"Ugly Betty" — yes

"Women's Murder Club" — yes

CBS

"Big Bang Theory" — yes

"Cane" — no

"Cold Case" — yes

"Criminal Minds" — yes

"CSI" shows — yes

"Ghost Whisperer" — yes

"How I Met Your Mother" — yes

"Moonlight" — yes

"NCIS" — yes

"... Old Christine" — yes

"Numb3rs" — yes

"Rules of Engagement" — yes

"Shark" — maybe

"Two and a Half Men" — yes

"The Unit" — maybe

"Viva Laughlin" — no

"Without a Trace" — yes

FOX

"American Dad" — yes

"Back to You" — yes

"Bones" — yes

"Family Guy" — yes

"House" — yes

"King of the Hill" — yes

"K-ville" — no

"Prison Break" — no

"Terminator: Sarah Connor Chronicles" — maybe

"The Simpsons" — yes

"Til Death" — yes

"24" — no

NBC

"Bionic Woman" — no

"Chuck" — no

"ER" — maybe

"Friday Night Lights" — no

"Heroes" — no

"Journeyman" — no

"Las Vegas" — no

"Law & Order" shows — yes

"Life" — no

"Lipstick Jungle" — yes

"Medium" — yes

"My Name Is Earl" — yes

"The Office" — yes

"Scrubs" — yes

"30 Rock" — yes

CW

"Aliens in America" — maybe

"Everybody Hates Chris" — yes

"The Game" — yes

"Gossip Girl" — yes

"Life Is Wild" — no

"One Tree Hill" — yes

"Reaper" — maybe

"Smallville" — yes

"Supernatural" — yes

The candidates on health care: where do they stand?

Craig Stoltz
The Washington Post

Months into a heated primary campaign, health care remains a top voter concern. A recent Washington Post-ABC national survey showed health care ranked third (after the economy and the war in Iraq) among Democratic voters; among Republicans, health care ranks among the top 10 issues.

But if you're confused on just how the front-runners compare on key health-care issues, you're not alone. Here's some help.

The caveats: We report candidates' stated positions, not what they'll do if elected. Underlying the health-care debate is the matter of cost. Democrats' plans involve regulating insurers and offering all Americans a menu of insurance choices similar to those available to federal workers. Republicans would deregulate insurers, arguing that a free market will reduce costs and boost quality. All say savings will come from technology such as digital medical records and from disease prevention and chronic care.

And a note: Some say the focus on health care is not enough. A former assistant surgeon general, Douglas Kamerow, writing last week in the journal BMJ, says candidates' proposals don't address the "crisis" in U.S. primary care, the need for better pay for primary care doctors or ways to reward continuity of care.

For an interactive look at the candidates' positions, see www.washingtonpost.com/health .

Here are the Democratic and Republican front-runners' stands on several key health questions:

--Will all Americans be covered by health insurance?

Hillary Clinton: Yes

Mike Huckabee, John McCain, Barack Obama: No

Clinton's plan includes a federal mandate that all individuals not covered by employer or public plans have health insurance. She has not specified how this would be enforced. Obama proposes a stepped approach starting with a mandate to cover all children, with the eventual possibility of full mandates if incentives, subsidies and cost controls fail to achieve universal coverage. Huckabee and McCain have spoken out plainly against mandates.

-- Will your employer be required to provide health insurance?

Clinton, Obama: Yes, or pay into a common fund to defray costs for all.

Huckabee, McCain: No

Clinton's plan would require big employers to provide coverage or pay into a fund that supports a new system. Small employers would get incentives, not mandates, to offer insurance. Obama would require employers to offer "meaningful" coverage or pay a percentage of payroll into a fund. Republicans oppose employer mandates.

--What help will go to people seeking individual coverage?

Clinton, Obama: New insurance marketplace would offer private and public choices meeting certain standards. Insurers would have to cover anyone, regardless of pre-existing conditions. Tax breaks would make insurance easier to afford.

Huckabee: A deregulated insurance market would provide insurance options, but coverage would not be guaranteed or mandated. Tax breaks would make insurance easier to afford.

McCain: Same, but people could also buy insurance through organizations and associations.

Clinton and Obama would offer a menu of public and private insurance choices, with tax breaks based on income. Insurers would have to issue coverage despite pre-existing conditions and meet federal rules for minimum coverage, including preventive and chronic care. McCain would let individuals deduct insurance costs; Huckabee would offer tax breaks only to low-income people buying private insurance.

-- Will the federal government be permitted to bargain with drug companies for lower pharmaceutical prices, and will it be legal to import cheaper drugs from other countries?

Clinton, Obama, McCain: Yes

Huckabee: No

A law now prohibits the federal government from bargaining with drug companies for lower prices for its millions of Medicare beneficiaries. Another law prohibits importation of lower-cost drugs from other countries. Obama, Clinton and McCain would overturn these laws. Huckabee would not.

--Will medical research with embryonic stem cells be expanded?

Clinton, Obama, McCain: Yes, with federal funding

Huckabee: No

All candidates except Huckabee would permit and federally fund stem cell research using embryos created from in-vitro fertilization that would otherwise be destroyed. Huckabee would permit research, without federal funding, using only the existing stem cell lines currently available to researchers.

-- Other details

Clinton: Doctors get incentives for best practices in preventive and chronic care.

Obama: Children younger than 25 can be covered under parents' plan.

McCain: Veterans can get care at any medical facility.

Huckabee: Speaks about prevention and healthy lifestyles, but offers no specific plan.

Training tips

The Washington Post

Just for the record, 7 1/2 chilly morning miles do not go down well after a day of shrimp etouffee and triple rum Hurricanes. Mardi Gras or no Mardi Gras, there are some rookie mistakes I'll probably never outgrow.

But YOU can do better. The idea of starting a running program may be intimidating, particularly if you've been inactive for a while. But spring will be here in a few more weeks — good weather to begin before the summer ozone cloud congeals. Here are some tips and resources to get yourself going:

1. Be patient. It takes time for your body to adapt to a new activity. In the beginning, persistence is more important than distance or speed. Get out a few times a week whether you walk, run or alternate between them.

2. Take it easy — but keep track of what you do. Over time, you'll be able to cover more distance and build speed. You won't see the progress if you don't keep the data.

3. Don't skimp on gear, particularly shoes. You'll be happier over the next few weeks with a hat, gloves and a windproof jacket. Wicking fabric may cost more, but it dries fast and won't leave you sopping wet and chilled. Running shoes are designed to address different issues with your gait: The specialty stores know those differences and can save you a lot of heartache.

4. Warm up, cool down. A five- to 10-minute walk or slow jog at the start of the run will make the whole process less miserable. A few minutes of stretching at the end will lower the risk of injury and help minimize some of the usual aches and pains.

5. Don't be afraid of food. Many of us are in this to help with weight control, but starving yourself — or eliminating whole food groups — is not the way to do it. You need a balance of carbs, protein and, yes, fats, to stay healthy. Resources:

-- Beginner workouts: The Cool Running Web site (www.coolrunning.com) has a "couch to 5K" schedule that will build you up to three miles over nine weeks. Runner's World (www.runnersworld.com) will get you to about the same point in eight weeks.

-- Shoes: A good place to start is the Runner's World shoe finder (www.runnersworld.com). Along with the database of shoes, it has information about foot mechanics that can help when you go shopping.

-- Support: If you want help structuring your workouts and a chance to make friends along the way, look into local groups.

From day to night

The Washington Post

This month, the most romantic day of the year falls on a weekday. Here's how to take your look from office-appropriate to Valentine's Day vixen without lugging your entire makeup case to work:

— Pat your face with blotting papers to eliminate that 9-to-5 shine. Blend a bit of highlighter into the corners of your eyes to hide shadows and add some glow.

— Swipe on a darker lip color in a romantic plum or deep red shade. Top with a dab of shimmery pink or gold gloss in the center of your bottom lip to make your mouth look fuller.

— Smooth a finger over your eyelids to eliminate creases of old shadow and smudge on a smoky grey near the lashline.

— Finish with a coat of black mascara and a spritz of your favorite fragrance.

The fall runways championed the return of the hat, and lucky for us, the trend has filtered down to everyday wear. But how to wear your cloche, beret or knit cap well? Follow these tips on choosing the perfect chapeau for your face and body.

Petites should opt for styles with a small brim and a crown that sits close to the top of the head, such as an Edward Hopper-esque cloche. A too-big or too-tall topper can easily overpower a slight frame.

Brims with a bit more width work well on taller women; the more substantial accessory can balance out a long silhouette. Again, stick with shorter crowns and steer clear of any narrow, angular lines.

Long faces should choose styles with wide brims that curve upward, or softer shapes that curve around the face. Women with round or heart-shaped faces should skip rounded cloche hats — styles that are wider than their faces will be most flattering. Also try angular shapes, like the tough-to-pull-off fedora.

Oval faces can wear most styles, but pay attention to how the hat accentuates facial features. Does that knit beret put too much focus on your high forehead? Or does it flatter your cheekbones and show off that great haircut?









Photos by The Voice Photography Editors:

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&
Karen Evans

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonymously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.











Photos by The Voice Photography Editors:

Hugh Mailly
&
Karen Evans

Women's swim team finishes strong

Chris Flood
Layout Editor

The Westfield State women's swimming and diving team finished its regular season by winning its last three meets to finish with an 8-2 dual meet record, the school's 15th straight winning season.

"It was an overall team effort," said head coach Dave Laing, "and the seniors showed excellent leadership."

"Our team has so much depth and I think that played a huge role in winning so many meets," added senior swimmer Lindsay Hryniewich.

The team gives much of the credit to Laing, who is in his 26th season as coach of the swimming and diving team.

"As much as we want to improve for ourselves, we want to improve for Dave (Laing)," said Hryniewich. "He is so involved in every aspect of our team and I can't say enough positive things about him. He is just an amazing coach."

"We always have fun, work hard, and do well; and we have Dave to thank for most of that," said senior swimmer Kara Phelan.

Fourteen members of the team qualified for the New England Championships, a three day meet taking place Feb. 15-17 at UMass Dartmouth.

Those who qualified were: seniors Hryniewich and Phelan; juniors Cairsten Beanland, Shannon Conroy, Steph Cooper, Kelly Johnson and Chrissy Lovejoy; sophomores Jen Butler, Lindsey Malboeuf, Ariana Mastro, Lauren Pellegrinc, Gina Sementelli and Libby Stewart; and first year Tiffany Moreno.

"The dual county is one thing but the championship is the goal, it's where everything comes together," said Laing.

Last season, the Owls finished fourth overall at the New England Championships and are hoping to maintain or improve upon that position.

"We've been working hard all season and once we're tapered and shaved, we will definitely be ready," said Hryniewich.

"I hope that the young ladies perform well, it's their culminating performance for three straight days," said Laing.

Mauer torches Worcester State

WESTFIELD, Mass. – Senior guard Ryan Mauer (Pittsfield) scored a career-high 31 points to power Westfield State to a 71-52 victory over Worcester State on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Westfield improves to 15-6 overall and 5-3 in the conference, while Worcester drops to 9-12 and 2-6.

Along with Mauer's explosive offense that included 19 second-half points, Westfield again played a stingy defense. The Owls are ranked first in the conference and 26th nationally in scoring defense, allowing 61.2 points per game.

"We played good team defense which allowed us to get out on offense a little bit," said Westfield State head coach Rich Sutter. "I thought Ryan had a great game.

"Twenty-one points allowed in a half is a good target for us," he added.

Westfield led 29-23 at halftime. Worcester State tied the score at 37-all on a 3-point basket by Will Spont (Bellingham), who was the Lancers' only player in double figures with 14 points.

The Owls then put away the game by going on a 15-2 run to take a 52-39 lead with 9:59 remaining. Westfield's biggest lead down the stretch was 22 points.

Westfield committed 19 turnovers but it shot a sizzling 61 percent (28-for-46) from the field. Mauer was 13-for-18 from the floor, including 3-for-5 from 3-point range.

"It was one of those days where everything felt good for me," said Mauer. "(Point guard Chris) Kinback found me in the right spots."

Also scoring in double figures was Westfield junior forward Matt Badjo (Worcester) with 10 points. Sophomore forward Joe DiCruttalo (Franklin) played well off the bench with nine points. Kinback, from Shrewsbury, had three assists, three steals and tied for team-high honors with six rebounds.

Worcester State' second leading scorer was senior forward Josh Barry (Sheffield/Mt. Everett) with seven points; he also grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds.

Worcester only made 34 percent of its field goal attempts against Westfield, which ranks 22nd nationally in field goal percentage defense.

Westfield attends APPLE conference

Four members of the Westfield State College community recently attended the APPLE Conference, focusing on substance abuse prevention, at the University of Virginia.

Westfield State's team at the three-day conference were associate athletics director/senior women's administrator Nancy Bals, junior student-athletes Brett Ralph and Marlee Berg, and Chaltali Brahmbhatt, a residential life staff assistant who oversees the college's ACE (alcohol choices education) program.

At the APPLE Conference, student-athletes obtained information on alcohol education and promoting wellness. They discussed various aspects of these important issues with their peers from 40 colleges.

The APPLE model includes seven components, or slices, of program areas such as policies, drug testing, sanctioning and education.

"The conference is designed to inform participants about alcohol education, and the format encourages the students to lead the discussions on how we can improve our efforts on campus," said Bals.

"My favorite part was interacting with the other student athletes. It's just not something you get to do every day," said Ralph, a tight end on the football team. "You are exposed to so many different perspectives, which really expands your thinking about other schools you see and hear about everyday."

The conference also allowed students to learn facts that might not appear so obvious, such as 25 percent of college athletes don't drink at all and 86 percent drink less or not at all when in-season.

"The perception student-athletes have of themselves as pertaining to alcohol is very tainted," said Ralph. "It was quite shocking to see how few actually drink, never mind in season. It reverses your thinking about student athlete drinking."

One focus of the conference was to inform student-athletes of their bodies' nutritional requirements if they do drink. For example, the body needs an additional cup of water for every alcoholic drink consumed. Athletes generally require 12 cups of water per day; therefore, an athlete who drinks a six-pack would then need about 18 cups of water that day.

Another focus area discussed was alcohol servings and exactly how they are measured. For this enlightening topic, there was a keynote address by Linda Hancock, a faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I would feel bad for any student who missed her presentation. She was funny, down to earth, filled with information... just great overall," said Berg, a track and field and cross country captain. "She also really stuck in people's minds, not just as a speaker but the information within her presentation."

"We would love to have Linda speak at Westfield State; she was an excellent source of information and very engaging," said Bals, who noted that Hancock has an excellent Web site: www.yourstrategy.org.

Westfield State is actively implementing new ideas from the APPLE conference along with improving current strategies. For any student on campus, it is important to know that peer alcohol education is available. Two peer workshops are being offered this month at Westfield State - Feb. 12 and Feb. 25, both at 7:00 p.m., in Scanlon Living Room.

"Overall, the conference allowed us to come back with some really good ideas to enhance our ACE program," said Bals.

Continued on Page 11



Westfield State attendees at the APPLE conference were Nancy Bals, senior women's administrator, Marlee Berg, Chaltali Brahmbhatt, a residential life assistaut, and Brett Ralph.

Photo courtesy of www.westfieldstateowls.com

Upcoming Home Games

Sat. 2-12-2008
1:00 Women's Basketball vs. Fitchburg State
3:00 Men's Basketball vs. Fitchburg State

Thurs. 2-21-2008
6:00 Women's Basketball vs. Framingham State
8:00 Men's Basketball vs. Framingham State

Men's Basketball Leaders
15-6 Overall, 5-3 Conference
(As of Feb. 10, 2008)

Scoring
D. Jaehnig 16.0 ppg
R. Mauer 15.3 ppg

Rebounding
D. Jaehnig 6.5 rpg
M. Badjo 6.5 rpg

Women's Basketball Leaders
8-13 Overall, 2-6 Conference
(As of Feb. 10, 2008)

Scoring
A. Wasuk 13.5 ppg
K.Sylvain 9.5 ppg

Rebounding
A.Wasuk 6.0 rpg
C.Jouannet 5.3 rpg

APPLE - Continued from Page 10

"Absolutely. I would go again. It was an excellent opportunity to interact with the administration and fellow student athletes," said Ralpb. "Everyone was extremely motivated, and some great action plans came together. The speakers and presentations were outstanding. Overall, it was definitely an experience that I'm happy I did not pass up."

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The plot thickens as hearing nears

LANCE PUGMIRE
AND
BILL SHAIKIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As a star-studded, nationally televised show on the eve of spring training, Wednesday's steroid hearing by a House committee is surely not the kind of curtain-raiser on the 2008 season that Major League Baseball officials would prefer.

The hearing promised fireworks from the day it was scheduled last month, when the committee invited Roger Clemens to appear and answer questions under oath about allegations from his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, that he had received steroid and human growth hormone injections.

And that was before Clemens' wife became part of the conversation.

McNamee told House investigators during a deposition that he injected Debbie Clemens, then 39, with human growth hormone to help her prepare for a bikini photo shoot for tbe 2003 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue, the New York Daily News reported Friday, citing an anonymous Washington source.

"McNamee discussed his wife's use before the committee," the source told the Daily News. "She was trying to get in shape for the SI cover. He told them the story that Debbie took growth."

The Daily News report could not immediately be confirmed. But it sparked a denunciation Friday from Rusty Hardin, an attorney for Clemens.

"Now there can be no doubt what kind of person we are dealing with," Hardin said in a statement, referring to McNamee. "To say that Roger directed [injections for his wife] is a colossal lie."

Debbie Clemens, who married Roger in 1984, is active in charity work in Texas. She was one of several athletes' wives photographed for the 2003 swimsuit issue.

"Roger came to me one day and told me that we had been asked to do a photo shoot for Sports Illustrated," she wrote on her website, according to the Daily News. "I had major anxiety! I was a 39-year-old mother of 4! Once I realized that this WAS going to be a reality, I decided I had to give it everything I had."

The report came at the end of a dizzying week of depositions, meetings and news conferences in the Rayburn House Office Building, where McNamee testified Thursday for seven hours, while Clemens met and greeted some of the 41 members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee who will question the seven-time Cy Young Award winner under oath about his alleged doping. He continued to visit informally with representatives Friday.

Among other things, McNamee told committee lawyers about evidence he had saved for more than seven years -- vials, needles, gauze pads and a crumpled beer can to store them in -- that he said would incriminate Clemens, his former close friend and training client. Clemens' attorneys again denied he had ever used drugs and called McNamee's actions "psycho."

"It will be a cross between a zoo and a circus," said Larry Sabato, director of University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "It will be quite a show. You hold a hearing on an energy program, and you're lucky if you get two reporters. You have something like this, and you've got to find an auditorium."

Also testifying will be Clemens' close friend and star pitcher Andy Pettitte, who has already provided credibility to McNamee by admitting he did take injections of human growth hormone, as McNamee told former Sen. George Mitchell in his investigation into baseball doping. Clemens' former teammate Chuck Knoblauch is also due to testify.

"Clemens is a mythical figure," Sabato said. "Let's be honest: People always like to see the greats fall."

The fifth attendee will be a man identified by some as the most involved baseball doping figure.

Kirk Radomski, a former New York Mets clubhouse attendant, pleaded guilty last year to supplying McNamee and others with steroids and human growth hormone.

Radomski had his day in federal court Friday in San Francisco, when he was sentenced to five years' probation and an $18,575 fine after cooperating with federal authorities and baseball investigators putting together the Mitchell Report. His deposition to Congress is set for Monday.

Radomski pleaded guilty in April 2007 to selling steroids, human growth hormone, amphetamines and other drugs to "dozens of current and former MLB players," according to the U.S. Attorney's office in San Francisco.

Radomski had deposited the proceeds of his drug sales into bis personal bank account, and relied on the money to finance his Long Island, N.Y., home, which served as his "base of operation, warehouse, and communication center for his anabolic steroid-dealing business," federal prosecutors said.

That home was raided by federal agents in December, 2005, and Radomski ultimately admitted to selling drugs to baseball players from 1995 until the raid. As part of his plea bargain, he promised to cooperate with Mitchell's investigators.

Radomski's cooperation was a boon to the Mitchell investigation. In three personal meetings and a telephone conversation, he revealed contacts he had not only with McNamee but several players, including former Dodgers catcher Paul Lo Duca. Canceled checks from players to Radomski and even a personal note from Lo Duca on Dodgers stationery were part of Mitchell's report.

McNamee's allegations against Clemens and Pettitte then surfaced in the Mitchell Report, a 400-plus page account of performance-enhancing drug use in baseball that leaders of the game commissioned. McNamee was required to tell investigators what he knew as part of his own plea agreement on steroids-dealing charges.

Before Friday's sentencing, Radomski's attorney, John F. Reilly, asked U.S. District Judge Susan Ilston for the "leniency" of probation, noting Radomski's role in exposing baseball's drug-tainted players.

The attorney also noted Radomski, 38, had no prior criminal history, and is working six days a week, 10 hours a day to support his car detailing business in St. James, N.Y.

Have a nice long weekend!

Fri 02/15	Swimming for Fitness 6:30 a.m to 8:00 p.m. Pool	Weekday Mass During Lent 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Chapel Upstairs	Costco Membership Offer 11:30 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. 333 Lobby
Sat 02/16	Urban Education Open House 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Parenzo Lobby	Men's Basketball vs. Fitchburg 3:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Women's Basketball vs. Fitchburg 1:00 p.m. Woodward Center
Sun 02/17	YMCA Track 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Sunday Mass 4:00 to 5:00 Chapel Upstairs	Racquetball Ladder Competition 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Campus Center
Mon 02/18	Alcoholics Anonymous 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Chapel Upstairs	Ahavas Achim-Hebrew School 4:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Interfaith Center	Spring Break Boot Camp 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ely Wellness Center
Tues 02/19	Black History Month Video "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes" 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Refreshing Yoga 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ely Wellness Center	Dealing with Difficult Employee Situations 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 333 Garden Room A
Wed 02/20	Black History Month Video "Hughes' Dream Harlem" 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Psychology Advising 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wilson 127	Pilates 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ely Wellness Center
Thurs 02/21	Fed-Ex Recruitment 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Class of 2010 Meeting 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ely SGA Conference Room	Men's and Women's Basketball vs. Framingham State 6:00 p.m and 8:00 p.m. Woodward Center



THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
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Top 10 signs your film is not going to be winning an Academy Award

10. It's 90 minutes of credits

9. Plot involves Matthew McConaughey's death-defying quest to find a shirt

8. It was directed by Steven Spielbaum

7. Awkward 20-minute part where actor has hic-coughs

6. To save money on special effects, film's momsters are stunt guys in green ping pong ball convered leotards

5. During the movie, you hear the sound guy grumble, "Oh, come on."

4. No Number 4 -- writer still stuck on JetBlue -- still a reference people

3. Only honor it received was "Most Graphic Depiction of Raccoon Sex."

2. There's never been a Best Picture with "Hottie" or "Nottie" in the title

1. It was rated H.C.T.S. for "Holy Crap This Sucks."

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10 -- Compiled by Colby Henderson

Smoking: it should be a choice

Molly Coyle
Voice Reporter

It's hard to walk from class to class these days without getting even the slightest whiff of cigarette smoke. In fact, in most cases, the smoking students are everywhere: outside academic buildings before classes, walking to their classes, standing outside their dorms with friends. Smoking, socially or habitually, is a person's right to choose, but when those smokers aren't 25 feet away from buildings, as signs all over campus say, they begin to impose their right onto others.

"I am not asking people to stop smoking, but please give me the opportunity not to smoke," said sophomore Liz Robbins, "I hate not having the ability to avoid it."

The image of the smoking college student isn't a new thing, but it seems to be on the rise. According to a University of Michigan survey, it's predicted that about 30 percent of college students smoke, and that number continues to rise.

One radical approach to this situation can be seen in Australia. Education Minister Andrew Barr is passed a ban that says beginning in 2008, smoking will not be allowed on public college grounds, much the way smoking is banned on the grounds of public middle and high schools. Many people, even Barr's peers, think the ban is a little excessive, but smoking continues to bother people.

At Westfield State College, signs are posted on all buildings, academic buildings as well as dorms, that tell smokers to stay 25 feet away from the building while smoking, but what is being done to enforce this? When asked this, campus Public Safety refused to comment.

"It only bugs me if they are standing right near a building and I have to walk through a cloud of smoke to get in or out of that building," said sophomore Kristin Mazeika. "Also, I live on the first floor and I can't keep my windows open for too long because they will stand outside of it and the smoke will drift in."

In some areas, such as Old Apartments, it is hard to tell where the designated smoking area starts and stops.

"There are no cigarette disposal bins," said junior Erik Siersdale, "leading to no prescribing smoking place that is 25 feet away."

To further confuse these designated smoking areas, there are ashtrays at the door entrance to academic buildings, which are only two feet away from the doors.

"There are some 'smokers' that ruin it for others by being inconsiderate of non-smokers by either standing in the way or are loud at night while smoking," said sophomore Kolby Taylor. "To be considerate is the best way 'smokers' and 'non-smokers' can live on the common campus."



Photo courtesy of www.connietalk.com/wherecanyousmoke123.html

Community reacts to recent charges of academic dishonesty

Erica Forish
Voice Reporter

"We value academic honesty above everything else and we expect it of everyone in the institution," says Dr. Robert Bristow, associate vice president of Academic Affairs. Recently, he sent an email to the community at Westfield State College as a reminder to students and faculty of the importance of academic honesty.

The email discusses the 2006-07 academic year, during which 15 charges of academic dishonesty were filed with the Office of Academic Affairs, a figure slightly higher than previous years. Three of the cases went to a formal hearing. The 12 remaining violations were settled between the students and the professors involved. Of the 15 charges, three students received failing grades for the course and one student was suspended.

Policy 1020: Academic Honesty

"Academic honesty, a necessary foundation of a learning community, is expected of all students. Violations are unacceptable and are subject to academic penalties, including failure of the course. A record of the violationviolation is submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs; repeated violations may result in suspension or dismissal from the College. Violations of academic honesty include cheating on examinations, plagiarism, and submission of papers for credit in two or more courses."

Academic honesty is a critical element in establishing a sense of trust between students and professors. WSC has adhered to its academic honesty policy for many years and specifically cites cheating on examinations, plagiarism and submitting one paper for credit in multiple classes as the three major violations. Students are most commonly charged with one form of plagiarism, which, according to the policy, includes: "(1) submitting someone else's paper as one's own; (2) copying a passage from another source without citing the source; and (3) expressing a published idea or theory in different words without crediting the source of the idea."

Recent charges of academic dishonesty have attracted the attention of both students and faculty members. "Academic honesty is the essence of being a scholar," says Dr. Ricki Kantrowitz, a professor of psychology at WSC.

"Being educated means knowing where to look to find information and giving proper credit to those who have a body of knowledge."

Asblee Hazeltine, a student at WSC, shares similar sentiments. "I don't take plagiarism lightly – if I work hard on writing my work, why does someone else get to take credit for it?" says Hazeltine. "People need to realize that in the real world, you cannot pass off someone's work as your own. You have to do your own work."

Although English composition courses provide students with an introduction to the academic honesty policy as well as the various degrees of plagiarism, some students may still be confused about what does or does not constitute as plagiarism.

"I am aware that plagiarism falls along a continuum and that sometimes students do not understand some of the subtleties of paraphrasing and use of citations," admits Kantrowitz. She suggests that students visit the Reading and Writing Center and talk to professors further.

Photos from around campus

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Ely construction continues

Bill George
Voice Reporter

A student plans on spending some time in the library while a friend goes to Subway. Saying goodbye, their paths split and they head in separate directions.

A common scene like this use to play out in the warm lobby of the Ely Campus Center. Now it takes place 100 yards away in front of a chain link fence.

The $12.5 million construction project underway at the Ely Campus Center has garnered more attention this year than any other due to the recent splitting of the campus center entrance.

The lobby is closed off and there is no access between the two halves of the building while inside. Those interested in visiting the communication department or the library must enter via a ramp to the left of the old entryway. Those wanting to visit the other classrooms, Subway, Jazzman's Coffee, the radio station, the wellness center or the Black Box Theater must climb a set of stairs to the right of the previous entrance.

Dr. Curt Robie, assistant vice president in charge of Facilities and Operations, says the first time the building will have a unified point of entry again is when the project is slated for completion on Sept. 1, 2009.

The project was conceptualized in 2002, in order to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. As it stands now, the building has no public elevator that would give handicapped individuals access to all of its departments.

Robie says the reason for the project's relatively slow progress is the "myriad of regulations and bureaucracy" the school must wade through in order to acquire funding for the project.

In addition to elevators, the building will receive new, larger bathrooms in order to meet safety and sanitary codes. Other changes include:

- The bookstore will be moved to the first floor.
- The Arno Maris art gallery will be placed upstairs next to the theater.
- The campus television studio and communication department will be remodeled.
- A new air conditioning unit will be installed to benefit the entire building.

Reactions to the construction have been overwhelmingly positive.

According to the Chair of the communication department, Dr. Elizabeth Preston, the upgrades are "long overdue."

Coordinator of Video Production and TV Operation, Mark St. Jean, says the department plans to "dovetail the renovation of the television studio with the purchasing of all new equipment to go along with it."

Continued on Page 3

Editor's Desk



Spring Break is right around the corner, and I'm pumped! I'm not actually DOING anything for Spring Break....but I'm excited to be able to go home & relax for an entire week :) -- my family will drive me nuts within two days and I'll pray to be back at school. That's generally how it goes. I'm sure you understand.

Sorry about not having an issue out last week. I decided to take a mini-vacation! There won't be an issue out next friday either, mainly because we're going on Spring Break and the paper will be sitting around for a week before anyone has a chance to look at it.

On an exciting note, next year's co-editors, Jeff Dale and Colby Henderson, are going on a trip to Paris! They are attending a Journalism Conference the week after Spring Break, and I'm sure will be coming back with some great ideas for when they take over next year. Needless to say, I'm VERY jealous!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Guest Lecture Series continues with Patricia Smith's visit

Jeff Dale
Sports Editor

Last week Westfield State College was treated to another installment of the Guest Lecture Series. This time it was award winning poet and former Boston Globe journalist Patricia Smith, who honored Scanlon Banquet Hall with her poetry.

When Smith took the podium she was immediately taken back by how many people, students and faculty that attended the event.

"This is amazing," Smith said.

There was over a 100 people who made up the audience, many of which lined the walls, as there were not enough chairs to sit them all.

During the hour long performance Smith recited several poems; some humorous, some depressing, and some extremely graphic in detail, all of which had true emotions, and feeling behind them with, amazing stories about them to go along.

That was one of the amazing aspects of the night, which made many audience members drawn in.



Photo of Patricia Smith coutesy of blueflowerarts.com

For example after Smith recited, "I am Beautiful," a poem from the perspective of a neo-Nazi, she told a story about how she once performed it in East Germany with actual skinheads in attendance.

"We went to this club and it was really kind of weird and dark," Smith said. "I do this poem and their glaring at me, but their glaring at me in a good way, not in a 'were going to kill' you way, but 'we want to talk to you later way'. And I'm doing my next poem and a painting on the wall falls off the wall, hits me in the head, knocked me out. So all my friends in the back of the club thought I was shot."

Danielle Desrochers, one of many English majors at the event said she enjoyed the reading very much.

"It was awesome," Desrochers said.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Deval Patrick visiting campus



Curt Schilling being injured

Ely - Continued from Page 2

Dr. John Paulmann, a communication professor, admits the construction has caused "wild traffic patterns" in and around the building, as well as some drilling noises that can be heard in room 302. However, he says the work itself is "not a big deal" and does not interfere with the day-to-day operations of the department at the moment.

Meanwhile, those traffic patterns have irked some students. Eric Jones, a communication major in his junior year, says that while he is looking forward to the new studio and the newly renovated third floor, the construction has made getting coffee much harder. "You have to go outside, which is not very fun," he says.

When asked whether he believed the project would be finished on the estimated completion date of Sept. 1, 2009, Jones quips, "I refer you to the Big Dig."

Fact Box:	Ely Campus Center Construction Project
Estimated Date of Completion:	September 1, 2009
Construction Cost:	$8.5 million
Total Project Cost:	$12.5 million
Purpose:	• Bring building up to code with regards to the American's with Disabilities Act as well as safety and sanitary regulations
Other Objectives:	• Place campus bookstore in a centralized location • Relocate Arno Maris Art gallery next to the theater • Renovate communication department / third floor • Install new air conditioning system • Renovate campus TV studio • Renovate campus radio station

For whom Dobelle tolls

BILL GEORGE
VOICE REPORTER

It took Westfield State College almost two years of searching to find a president. But according to the student body, good things come to those who wait.

After a lengthy and protracted presidential search, Westfield State College hired Evan Dobelle this winter to become the institute's 19th president. Dobelle, a resident of Pittsfield, has previously served as president for the University of Hawaii as well as Trinity College in Hartford.

Since taking office in January, Dobelle has made numerous changes to campus policy. Two weeks ago students received an email from Susan LaMontagne, interim vice president of Student Affairs, outlining some of the changes to campus services and transportation.

A police officer has been stationed in the Commuter Lot in order to direct traffic at peak hours and reduce the risk of accidents.

A second Public Safety Shuttle now runs between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. in order to lessen students' wait and travel times. Also, the hours of the shuttle have been extended.

With regards to on-campus food, the Dining Commons is now open until 8 p.m. every day of the week.

Jazzman's Café has extended it's hours and is open during weekends for the first time in its history. Students can also expect to see Subway open during holiday weekends.

Finally, sports facilities such as Parenzo Gym and the Woodward Center have extended hours and modified schedules.

All of these changes went into effect on Feb. 11 and the response has been overwhelming.

"President Dobelle is very student-oriented," says senior John Petty, president of the Student Government Association. Petty adds that while SGA has spent the past two years amassing a list of things they'd like to change on campus, President Dobelle arrived at their first meeting with his own list of ideas that the association had never thought of or previously assumed were impossible. "He has been very responsive to all our concerns and has signed off on many of our requests."

"He's the man," proclaims senior Ben Sousa. "It's good to see someone getting things done around here." Sousa is one of the many students who believe that Dobelle's campus improvements are long overdue and are "no-brainers."

Petty says that many of these changes have been in the works for a while. However, according to Petty, "Interim President Barry Maloney was, and is, very student oriented and did work on alleviating student concerns. However, given his temporary status it was difficult for him to make such broad, sweeping policy changes."

Now that these enhancements are in effect, they are the talk of the campus.

Sophomore Caley Mackenzie believes that the food in the Dining Commons has improved since Dobelle has taken office. "There's more of a selection now on a regular basis," she raves.

Mackenzie also says that she has observed Dobelle in the Dining Commons talking with students and evaluating the service. "He seems really down to Earth."

So what's next for the Dobelle administration? The President has recently announced that the entire campus and surrounding area will have wireless Internet access by the time classes begin next fall. At the moment, wireless Internet is provided for the academic buildings, the library and the Dining Commons while the residence halls and apartment complexes must use wired Ethernet hookups.

Sad that they will not reap all of the benefits of Dobelle's presidency, Petty and Sousa both agree that it's a great time to be a freshman at Westfield State College.



How can the Career Service Center Help YOU!?

10 Ways to Boost Your Career Prospects before Spring Break

1. Research Summer Internships: Check with your academic department to determine summer internship opportunities and eligibility requirements. Contact Career Services for information on Cooperative Education. Think about interning in Washington D.C. this summer. Placements are available in all academic fields. The regular deadline for summer applications is March 14.

2. Start, Polish or Finish Your Resume: If you haven't tried OptimalResume (wsc.optimalresume.com), our online tool for creating great professional resumes and cover letters, there is no time like now! We guarantee you will like the results. This easy to use software takes away all the stress of formatting and layout and provides a great selection of samples and style tools.

3. Post or Send Your Resumes to Prospective Employers or Internship Coordinators: Leave campus with a positive feeling that you have laid the groundwork for future activities. Set a realistic goal for yourself – 20 resumes sent by March 7.

4. Register with Owl Link & Post Your Resume: Log on to your Owl Link (https://www.myinterfase.com/westfield/student) and get ready for the job search. Upload your resume and search for jobs, on-campus recruiting opportunities, job fairs and more.

5. Add Spring Job Fairs into your Personal Calendar – Your Owl Link announcements will provide up-to-date information on a wide range of job fairs scheduled for the spring.

6. Visit Career Services: We have a team of professional advisors ready to assist you with all your career-related needs. Unsure of your career path? Need guidance on how to research employers and professional opportunities? Having trouble putting cover letters together? We can help.

7. Job Shadow: Contact employers and arrange a job shadow experience for spring break: Know someone in the career field that you are interested in? See if you can spend a few hours each day to learn more about that career. Ask questions like: What do you like about your job? How did you get to where you are professionally? What is the biggest challenge in your job?

8. Shop for a Professional Wardrobe: Are you ready for that first professional interview? Take time to shop for your interview attire when you are not pressured. Not sure what to wear – consult a Career Advisor.

9. Prepare your Job Search Plan: Give some serious thought to your professional goals and what steps you need to take to accomplish them. The Career Center can help you determine which steps you can take that will help you with your job search.

10. Prepare for a Busy Recruiting Season: Practice your interviewing skills by participating in a mock interview with a career counselor and sign up for on-campus interviews with companies by contacting Career Services. Make sure you know what career events are coming up by visiting www.wsc.ma.edu/careerservices and clicking on Events and Announcements.

Have a happy & safe spring break

Career Center Staff

Where is the love for commuters?



KRISTI MIENTKA

VOICE COLUMNIST

This week, I'm taking a break from writing about national politics to discuss something on a bit of a smaller scale. It's something that's been on my mind since September, when I first began commuting to WSC.

Commuter parking is, as I've heard through word of mouth and experienced on my own, a serious problem here. Lots of commuters complain that it's almost impossible to find a space within walking distance of their classes. I've had relatively good luck—getting to campus at 8:15 every morning, I've never had to park in South Lot. On occasion, though, I have to use JP Lot (that little one behind Ely, next to the elementary school). The walk to class from there is a bit farther, but overall it's not bad. In the warmer months, that is.

One day last week (Valentine's Day, actually), I arrived at school late to find the main commuter lot full. I decided to park in JP Lot instead. Apparently it hadn't been plowed, so I had to circle around until I found a spot that wasn't buried in snow. The trek to my first class in Ely was nothing less than terrifying. I tiptoed my way along the icy sidewalks, cautiously trying to avoid slipping and dropping my armload of books. (When you commute, you don't have the luxury of leaving your stuff in a dorm room. It must go wherever you do). To get to Ely, I had to walk down a set of steps coated in ice. I felt like I was descending Mt. Everest, not walking to class.

I'm sure I'm not alone. According to WSC's website, over 1,700 students commute to the college. That's 1,700 full-time students who need good parking spaces—not to mention a quick, safe way to class.

According to my math, commuters make up about 36 percent of all undergraduate students. Many (including me) live at home with their families. Most have jobs. Scheduling classes around family obligations and work is tough enough already. Why does the physical act of getting to class have to be difficult? There are days when I'd rather crawl back under the covers and go to sleep than get in my car, drive 15 miles to school and try in vain to find a parking space. If you're a commuter, you probably have your share of those, too. (And let's face it: Who really wants to get up at the crack of dawn anyway?)

Commuters are a hardy bunch. We patiently try to tolerate our families, do the same household chores we've done since we were 10, work part-time jobs (putting half of the money we earn into our cars alone), and somewhere in there, find time to go to class and do homework. Many students commute to school because we can't afford to live there. But here's the thing: We still want a good education. We want to graduate, find good jobs and be successful. And we want to make a difference in the world because, supposedly, we are the future. Making it that much harder (and less desirable) for us to come to class isn't going to do anyone any favors.

So as I walked back to my car on that Valentine's Day afternoon, I wondered: where is the love for commuters?

Protestant Chaplain's Column

Jesus reminds his followers that they should ask God for what they want and need.

We could get into a debate on what we should ask for or whether God will give us what we request. That is a subject for another day. Rather I want to focus on Jesus' stress that we should ask.

We need to verbalize to God what our needs and desires are. Interesting isn't it, because God knows us through and through. If God knows us, then we shouldn't have to tell God. This could be a very real conundrum, or is it?

The point of verbalizing our needs and desires is that we need to clarify in our own heads and hearts what it is that we really want.

There is another level to this. If I must speak clearly to God what I think, want, need when God already knows what is in my head and heart. How much more important it is to verbalize to my earthly friends what I need, think, want.

How often do we think our friends should simply remember or know?

How often have we seen that person whom we find attractive, and wish they would come over and start a conversation?

How often do we assume that our significant friend, should know us so well that they are able to remember our favorite song, color, place to go, etc?

This brings me to the fact that Jesus will also remind his followers when speaking to God not to be afraid to ask God more than once. Sometimes the same prayer/request/petition may need to be asked repeatedly over time.

Again, if this is true of our conversations with God, should it not also be true of our conversations with one another? We do need to repeat.

Teachers are taught that they have to repeat a point at least three times before it is actually heard by a student. In order to be heard AND remembered, my guess is that it needs to be repeated much more often.

How often have you and I said, "I told you…" and then got into an argument/debate over whether or not we really told. Repeating important messages is good for ourselves and good for others.

Sometimes the message giver really didn't speak clearly. Sometimes the message giver didn't speak out loud. Sometimes the listener was distracted and was not listening very well. Sometimes the listener simply does not remember. There are a million other reasons why communication may break down—some good, some bad.

Point is, good communicators are not afraid to speak clearly and repeat their requests.

As we repeat requests, one does need to practice caution. There is a point at which persistence becomes harassment (this threshold is quickly reached in the area of sexuality). There is also the possibility that the other person may not agree. You can repeatedly ask a professor for an extension on a paper and have some very fine reasons why you should be given an extension. The professor may quite appropriately say, "no."

Be willing to make your desires and needs known to both God and your friends. Be willing to repeat. It is good for you. It is good for God. It is good for your friends.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Ave. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Ave. (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred e-mail is BSchoup@hotmail.com.

Elections '08



CAITLIN PENNDORF

OP/ED EDITOR

As everyone knows, we're currently in the middle of a presidential race that will determine who our country's 44th leader will be.

Many are saying this election could begin a new chapter of history. This is because the 2008 race has two candidates who seem to be stealing all of the spotlight. For those of you who haven't been near any form of communication for the past year, I'm talking about Illinois senator Barack Obama and New York senator Hilary Rodham Clinton.

These two Democratic candidates both have strong opinions on the issues that are supposed to be what "matter most" to United States citizens, such as Iraq, education and health care. However, I bet if you asked many Americans what they felt about Obama and Clinton, they would say that they would support a black or female president.

What is this? Since when does race or gender decide if someone is going to make a good president? Last time I checked, we need someone who will lead our country correctly, make good decisions and take the people's concerns seriously—explain to me again how they involves skin color or gender?

I'm Not saying that Obama or Clinton aren't capable of doing this. In fact, I believe both are leading strong campaigns and either has a chance to take the Democratic party seat in the election.

I just feel that many people are focusing too much on the exterior rather than the interior of the candidates and their positions on many hot topics that affect our everyday lives. The other day I was watching The View (which is much better post Rosie, by the way) and they were discussing the candidates. They focused so much on Obama being black and Clinton being a female, I had to change the channel. It would've been nice if they talked, at least for a few seconds, about Obama's feelings regarding gun control or Clinton's priorities if elected. I probably would've been floored if they even mentioned Mike Gravel, another Democratic candidate, who is actually from Springfield, Mass.

So before you decide who you're going to support this November, check out some of the candidates online, on the news or wherever you get your information from. While you're at it, you could check out the Republican party, which actually has candidates too! And remember, it's better to pick someone for what they stand for rather than how they look.

Peace Corps General Info. Meeting

Monday April 7, 2008
4:00pm-5:30pm
Ely Lower Lounge
Westfield State College

What do the following noteworthy people have in common?

- Ron Arias, senior editor for People Magazine
- Carol Bellamy, president of World Learning
- Christopher Dodd, U.S Senator, Connecticut
- Jim Doyle, Governor of Wisconsin
- Chris Mathews, host of NBC's Hardball
- Michael McCaskey, chairman of the board, Chicago Bears
- M. Peter McPherson, president of Michigan State University
- Robert Taft, former governor of Ohio
- Paul Theroux, author

They all served in the Peace Corps! Visit the Notable Former Volunteers section at www.peacecorps.gov to find out more about these accomplished individuals and to learn more about other famous Americans that have served in the Peace Corps!

These are just a few of the extraordinary Americans –nearly 200,000 – that have volunteered for the Peace Corps since it was founded in 1961.

Peace Corps is a 27 month, oversees, all expenses paid experience that will provide you with personal and professional growth. Come to the meeting in Ely to find out more!

Cannot attend the meeting? Email recruiter Jennifer Zeisler at jzeisler@peacecorps.gov

Bad boys



Nicole Sylvester
Voice Columnist

When I was 14 years-old, I 'fell in love' for the first time. You'll have to excuse my use of quotation marks. As you may already know, I use them most when I am being sarcastic.

It was not love, but it was indeed a feeling I had not felt before. Which, as a 14-year-old girl, I assumed was love. This is not the point.

The boy of my dreams was a skinny white boy who grew up in Waterbury, CT. Look it up if you're not familiar with the area. I met him at summer camp, so I really had no idea what he was like at home or away from camp. But I did know he'd been kicked out of private school, smoked cigarettes, he had blue hair and wore his pants too low. When we were 16, he got kicked out of summer camp for smoking pot in his cabin.

That sealed the deal for me.

He was rough.

He was bad.

And he was all I wanted.

This was just a preview of what the rest of my life would hold. Not that I grew into a blue haired chain smoking bad ass, but this started off a trend. Unlike previously assumed, I don't automatically swoon at chin straps, popped collars and spiky hair. Some of my most serious relationships included boys who were variations of this 16-year-old bad ass: boys who considered themselves individuals, going against the grain. They all had some things in common: chain smokers suffering from frequent brushes with the law, the inability to listen and the ability to scare the absolute crap out of me every time I let them drive. All of them were unable to focus on something for more than two minutes at a time. They couldn't focus on school, conversation or girls; which was the ultimate deal breaker every time.

For whatever reason, I am not alone in this attraction. There are millions of girls out there like me who fall for bad boys. What is it? Is it the thrill of doing things with them that you might get in trouble for? Is it the attraction of being bad by association? Is it that the quirky smile they give you means so much more because they hardly ever smile? Is it that all these girls secretly want to save bad boys from their wayward ways? Or, is it because deep down we all know that we can never fully have these boys, because they're too busy being bad?

Senate Banquet
April 4, 2008
Chez Josef, Agawam MA

Tickets on Sale starting **February 25th**
at the Campus Center Window
$36.00 per ticket
Please go to SGA IMMEDIATELY
after purchasing ticket for table sign-ups!!

First come First Serve Basis!
Hosted by Student Government Association
(Basement level Ely)

'Quarterlife' puts on the old sweater vest

MARY MCNAMARA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- Two weeks after the end of a crippling writers strike over the spoils of the much vaunted "new media," here is "Quarterlife" to prove that no matter who's getting paid what for it, the new media looks suspiciously like the old.

For one thing, it's been created by Marshall Herskovitz and Edward Zwick, the venerable duo that brought us "My So-Called Life," "Once and Again" and, of course, "thirtysomething." Their new show, which premieres Tuesday night on NBC, launched last year on MySpace, with much gasping and pontificating among industry watchers who wondered whether this was how writers would finally shake off the shackles of the networks and Change Television Forever. Hourlong episodes were broken into six eight-minute installments for the attention-span-impaired computerati -- five episodes have aired thus far -- and the Web site in the show, quarterlife.com, is an actual Website where you can watch the show and become part of the quarterlife (those whose age hovers around 25) community.

But a human baby born in space is still a human, and in tone and content "Quarterlife" is traditional television. Ironically, it may be the most relentlessly traditional, nay, even nostalgic show to ever air on television. Down to the Shetland sweater vests (are these really popular again???), scenes of pillow-hugging slackerhood and the now (oh, when will it end?) requisite female narrator.



Carrie Bradshaw, Meredith Grey, meet Dylan (Bitsie Tulloch), "Quarterlife's" voice-over and main character. She's a struggling writer, working as an editorial assistant by day and blogging about her many thoughts and many friends by night. They (the friends) include the loving but neurotic Debra (Michelle Lombardo), her handsome but loutish boyfriend Danny (David Walton), his filmmaker friend Jed (Scott Michael Foster), the nerdy and pale Andy (Kevin Christy), the lusciously troubled Lisa (Maite Schwartz) and Eric (Mike Faiola), a bearded idealist who believes "young people" (words he actually uses) can save the world, if only by selling solar panels door to door.

They all couple and un-couple as young people will, cant, recant, decant and have deep, often drunken, philosophical discussions about the inevitability of compromise, the nature of responsibility and why life is so much more difficult than they ever thought it would be.

Fast-paced if a bit dimly lit -- watching on a computer, it is at times difficult to make out the figures much less the faces -- "Quarterlife" sings a song of itself. There is much exchanging of fond barbs, many glances of love and longing, not a few tears and all the wondrous wearisome narcissism of youth.

Watching it on a television set is a relief anyway -- those eight-minute increments were a novelty but that quickly gave way to irritation, if only because full credits roll at the end of each minisode, and how many times can a thinking person be expected to read the names Zwick and Herskovitz without wanting to throw her laptop across the room? (Not many.)

Yet even with the visual distraction of watching Dylan blog -- the camera cuts between her talking to her computer and then the computer screen image of her talking to us -- "Quarterlife" plays more like a rerun than the sort of groundbreaking, trend-setting show the team is known for. The cast and characters are appealing enough, in a cozy, all-white, genetically engineered sort of way (Tulloch looks eerily like the love child of Winona Ryder and Ellen Pompeo), and the dialogue is by turns earnest and blase -- a few of her friends are cheesed off when they realize Dylan is blogging about them, but not too cheesed off and not for very long -- with far too many "and now we banter" subheads to it.

All Internet midwifery aside, "Quarterlife" screams "network" down to its PG rating. There are problems -- Jed's father has a stroke, Lisa drinks a bit more than is good for her -- but no one's smoking crystal, weed or even clove cigarettes.

It really is the most vanilla group of twentysomethings in captivity, a faraway kingdom of young people dreamed up by folks who baven't been twenty-anything for a very long time.

Zwick and Herskovitz do capture the sweet self-absorption of youth -- love is never truer, dreams never dearer and life never as complicated as it is when you are 24 -- it's just that it all feels so familiar when we were so hoping for something new and exciting.

Fans, actors salute `MASH'

CARLA HALL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MALIBU, Calif. -- Where were you the night that the finale of the comedy TV series "MASH" aired 25 years ago to a record-setting number of viewers?

Most of the people gathered in a woodsy-fragrant clearing in Malibu Creek State Park on Saturday morning could tell you where they were while watching that famous episode. Some, alas, could not; they would be the ones who hadn't been born 25 years ago.

But they could all look across to the chaparral-covered mountains and recognize the backdrop for the show's opening scene of helicopters flying in as the melancholy theme song played. They pointed up the grassy slope to the place where the injured would arrive to be cared for by the characters of the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

And they grinned in delight as they posed for pictures next to the replica of the camp signpost with its medley of wooden arrows pointing to the hometowns of MASH personnel.

For this group, the clearing was sacred ground -- and not just because it's the archaeological site of a Chumash village. It was the outdoor filming location of the beloved TV show about a Korean War MASH unit that presaged the now-routine melding of comedy and drama in television. Devoted fans -- both original and DVD-raised -- hiked in or hitched bumpy rides in vintage military vehicles Saturday for a tribute to the show and its panoramic location.

"It's like Graceland; I love it," said Stephanie Ouellette, a 24-year-old actor who came with her friends, Jenn Morrison, 24, and Giancarlo Damiani, 23, also actors. Morrison and Ouellette were nurtured on reruns and DVDs of the show.

"I think Hot Lips is awesome," Morrison said. "She's so spunky."

No one seemed more moved than the actors who became stars as a result of the show. That included Hot Lips herself, who still sports near-platinum-blond hair in long curls.

"It's thrilling to be honored in this way," said Loretta Swit, who played Maj. Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan. "I think if I had to sum it up, what we're most proud of is that we made everybody come together. And I think this will also bring people together."

One of the "MASH" directors, Charles Dubin, 89, as well as producers Gene Reynolds and Burt Metcalfe, all took turns at the microphone. William Christopher, who played Father Mulcahy (the boyish MASH priest is gone but that lilting voice is still there) spoke, as did actor Jeff Maxwell, who called his character, the cook Igor, more "biscuit" than "role."

"It brings back so many memories," he said, squinting toward a hillside. "I was drunk up there."

The audience of about 300 people laughed appreciatively.

"No matter who you were on the show, you were really part of a family," Maxwell said.

Actor Mike Farrell, one of the more famous members of the cast (he played B.J. Hunnicutt) said that he and some of his "MASH" cohorts regularly dine together. He thanked the people who came to the park.

"It's wonderful to see all you willing to trek out here for the memory of this show," Farrell said.

And it is a bit of a trek. From the front entrance of the park it is a two-mile hike, albeit a gentle one. The reward -- in addition to the scenic journey itself -- is the site, which has been groomed and dotted with some of the show's artifacts. There is an old ambulance that was used in the show, and the path to the camp's helicopter pad has been restored. The sites of some of the show's tents will be outlined by ropes on posts.

But the most significant artifact is the location itself -- once owned by Fox studios, which sold it to the state of California in 1974 but continued to shoot there. ("MASH" ran on CBS from 1972 to 1983.)

Park docent Brian Rooncy spearheaded the yearlong effort to tame the unruly brush that had overtaken the area. "The ambulance over there was completely covered in brush," said Rooney, 44, whose day job is in marketing at Penske Motor Group; his weekend labor of love was restoring the "MASH" site. "There are bigger "MASH" fans than I, but I'm totally motivated to share things with the public."

State park service folks seemed to feel the same way.

"Welcome to North Korea," Ron Schafer, California State Parks Angeles District superintendent, said to the assembled crowd.

"South!" came the shouts correcting his historic reference to the location of the MASH unit.

"Actually, welcome to Malibu Creek State Park," Schafer said; he noted that the state park system wanted to restore the "MASH" site "as part of the cultural history of America."

Farrell, a longtime human rights activist and opponent of the death penalty, took the opportunity to tweak Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for proposing budget cutbacks in state parks spending while moving ahead with a new death row at San Quentin State Prison.

"All of you need to contact the governor and tell him, `You're spending $136 million on a new death row. It would be better just to spend that on state parks,' " Farrell said. There was a brief silence. "I don't mean to get political," he deadpanned as the crowd chuckled.

"The legacy of `MASH,' " Farrell said at one point, "is that war hurts; blood is not spilled without cost."

Dotting the scene were vintage military vehicles from the 1950s, '60s and '70s. The enthusiasts who own them -- and regularly drive them in parades -- came to the tribute to provide atmosphere as well as rides.

Just-retired Marine Cliff Smith, 38 -- "I grew up on `MASH' " -- had his own take on the show's theme: "I think the message is they were there to help the people who were wounded. Everybody was there to help in their own way."

Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Internship Program



The Washington Center is pleased to announce our continued partnership with the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Selected students will have the opportunity to intern for FAA offices and participate in an experiential training program focused on professional achievement, leadership, and civic engagement. Student participants will gain relevant skills and knowledge, explore career options within the Department of Transportation and other federal agencies, and develop a greater awareness of the role of the federal government. Summer 2008 internships with the FAA will be located in various locations, including Washington, DC; Fort Worth, TX; Wichita, KS; Burlington, MA; and Kansas City, MO. Positions are available in the Rotorcraft Directorate, Space Program, Standards Staff Office, Aircraft Certification Program and other related fields.

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Application Deadline for Summer 2008: February 29, 2008. However, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis as needed after the deadline. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as they are able.

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Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) — The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars — www.twc.edu

Soap fans claim bias against gays

LYNN SMITH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD -- It all started last Christmas, when Luke and Noah, the young gay couple on "As the World Turns," were about to kiss. Though fans had seen them kiss before, this time the camera panned up to the mistletoe.

Over the next few months, while heterosexual couples were kissing, "Nuke" (as fans call the couple) was restricted to holding hands, playing with one another's neck scarves and sharing meaningful looks.

Ensuing complaints of discrimination to CBS and the show's producer and sponsor, Procter & Gamble, had no effect. And the last straw apparently arrived on Valentine's Day, when every other couple but Nuke shared a kiss. They hugged instead.

Online fans began a nationwide media blitz Wednesday to bring attention to the show, which has been twice nominated for an award from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

"Presenting a gay couple on television only to relegate them to insulting hugs and slaps on the back is the 21st-century version of putting African-Americans on the back of the bus," wrote one disgruntled fan named Tony. "We're simply supposed to be happy that we got the ride at all. This is 2008, and yet CBS and Procter & Gamble are clearly stuck in the past."

GLAAD media spokesman Damon Romine agreed: "While tremendous strides have been made on soaps, it's clear that we're not at a place where gay and transgender people are treated the same on daytime as they are on prime-time or cable."

At the same time, the American Family Association urged its members Thursday to contact Procter & Gamble to ask that it stop sponsoring "overtly pro-homosexual television programs."

The group's research showed Procter & Gamble to be the top sponsor of gay content on network television. Others they listed were Verizon, Target, Ford Motor Co., Sears and Macy's.

Jeannie Tharrington, a spokeswoman for Procter & Gamble Productions, denied that the show's writers were discriminating.

"We're trying to be sensitive to all the different audiences who watch our show. We do make our decision based on what we think is best for the show's diverse audience and what's best creatively."

She said their story has been unfolding deliberately in a slow manner to keep interest alive.

"That's the thing with soap operas," she said. "They're always trying to keep people wanting more."

She said the sponsors are very committed to continuing the story of the pair, who are coming of age in a small Midwestern town.

"It's a very authentic kind of story," she said.

CBS spokesmen said the show's ratings have increased since the pair were introduced in 2007.

CBS supports the producers' vision for the Luke and Noah story line," according to a statement. "We have not censored it or asked them to hold back in any way."

Available and recommended

CURT FIELDS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Recommended DVDs released Feb. 19 include:

— "American Gangster" (R)

— "Angels in the Dust" (Unrated)

— "For the Bible Tells Me So" (Unrated)

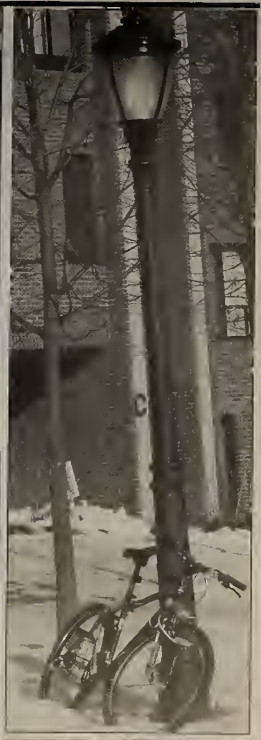
— "In the Valley of Elah" (R)

— "Kurt Cobain: About a Son" (Unrated)

— "Michael Clayton" (R)

— "Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project"









Photos by Photography Editor, Karen Evans

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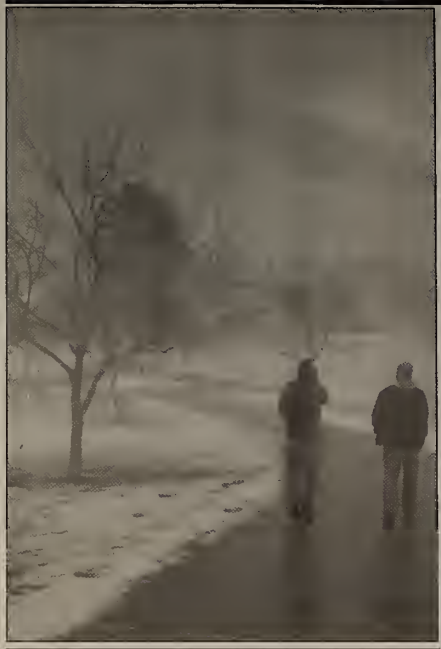
Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.









Photos by Photography Editor, Hugh Mailly

Balanced Owls oust Lancers, 69-59

Matthew Johnson
Sports Reporter

WESTFELD- The Westfield State College men's basketball team advanced to the second round of the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference(MASCAC) Tuesday night with a 69-59 victory over the Worcester State Lancers at the Woodward Center.

The Owls went into the game as the No. 3 seed, and left with an overall record of 18-8 and a semi-final date at Fitchburg State on Thursday night. The win marked the third time this season the Owls defeated Worcester State.

The game was a tight fought battle in the early going with turnovers and missed shots taking center stage. Despite 10 turnovers, the Owls found themselves ahead 28-26 heading to the locker room.

The Owls sloppiness in the first half yielded to great team play and scoring distribution after the break.

Westfield finished the game with four players scoring in double digits led by sophomore guard Brandon Mauer with 16 points off the bench. Mauer went 4-for-8 from 3-point land and stole the momentum for the home team.

Mauer wasn't the only bench player with a huge contribution. Sophomore guard Joe Dicruttalo (13) and freshman Vinny Baker (10) added scoring power, combined for seven assists, and tallied five rebounds each.

"We got a great effort from our bench tonight," Westfield head coach Rich Sutter said. "Vinny, Joe and Brandon were all ready to go."

Senior guard Ryan Mauer chipped in with 12 of his 14 points in the second half, and junior Dave Jaehnig finished the night with 11 points and a game high eight rebounds despite being in foul trouble.

The balanced attack forced Worcester into foul trouble and the Owls cashed in at the free throw line, hitting seven more from the charity stripe than the Lancers attempted.

The Owls took a 12-point lead with a little over seven minutes remaining in the game and never looked back.



Ryon Mauer battles for a loose ball. Photo By David Horris-Fried

After the game, Ryan Mauer was named to the All-MASCAC 2nd team, and Jaehnig earning 1st team honors.

The newly recognized All-Stars and Co. will take their show to Fitchburg Thursday, with the MASCAC championship game in their sights.

Owls compete at NE D-3 Finals

The Westfield State College women's indoor track and field team competed at the New England Division III championships on Feb. 22-23 at Smith College.

The Owls earned 1.5 points to place 23rd. Caitlin Handcock earned All New England honors by tying for seventh in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, 1/2 inch. Teammate Marlee Berg also cleared the same height, but she finished ninth based on the fewer misses tiebreaker procedure.

Berg also was a member of the 4 x 200 (1:51.53) and 4 x 800 (10:03.47) that both finished 13th. Heather Beninati, Stephanie Baker, and Claire Glabach also ran on the 4 x 200 relay. Other 4 x 800 relay members were Emily Murphy, Mel Joyce and Jeannie Channell.

Steph Crain placed 15th in the 55 hurdles (9.48) and Kerry Arouca finished 18th in the 3,000 meter run (10:52.95).

Westfield upsets Worcester, 62-59

WORCESTER – The fourth seeded Worcester State women's basketball team fell in the opening round of the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference playoffs, 62-59, to fifth seed Westfield State Tuesday evening in Lancer Gymnasium.

Sparking the Owls to the big road victory were junior guard Katie Sylvain (Hadley) who posted game highs of 21 points and 11 rebounds. Junior forward Andrea Wasuk (Lenox) poured in 19 points.

The Lancers conclude their season with an 8-17 record, while Westfield State improves to 11-15. Westfield State, will now travel to Bridgewater State on Friday evening to take on the top seeded Bears in the semifinals..

Westfield State got off to an 8 point halftime lead, 28-20, as it hit 5 three pointers in the first half.

Katie Sylvain and her twin sister, Lauren, each hit a pair of threes to lead the Owls. Katie Sylvain finished the half with 8 points. Wasuk also had 8 first half points.

The Owls shot 41.7% from the field in the first half. Worcester State struggled shooting just 24.1% from the floor. Brianne Flanders (Southampton, MA), Erin McCullough (Harvard, MA) and Natasha Dallas (Roxbury, MA) each scored four points for the Lancers.

In the second half, Worcester State trailed by 10 points with 5:18 remaining before making a final push. Seven straight points cut the deficit to three, 57-54, with 3:06 left in regulation. A three pointer by Kathleen Foley (Hudson, NH) made the score, 61-59 Westfield with 44 ticks left. But after a missed Westfield State free throw, the Lancers missed a three pointer that would have given them the lead. The Owls added a free throw for the 62-59 final.

Flanders and Foley paced the Lancers on the night with 12 points. Senior Lindsay DelleChiaie (Leominster, Mass) closed out her career with 10 points.

Schilling out for good?

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

News of Curt Schilling's right shoulder injury took most Red Sox fans by surprise. When the Red Sox re-signed Schilling for an additional year, everyone assumed that he was in his best health.

Schilling is currently undergoing rehab for his ailing right shoulder, and the Red Sox are hopeful that he will be able to pitch at some point during the season. As of right now, the rumor is that he will be out until at least the All-Star break.

According to recent articles, there has been disagreement of treatment between the Red Sox organization and Schilling's doctor. His doctor advocated for surgery, which would pretty much end Schilling's career. Clearly, the Red Sox and Schilling both decided on a course of rehabilitation, seeing as how both parties want to see him pitch this season.

Even though rehabilitation seems to be Schilling's best option if he wants to continue pitching, the rehab doesn't guarantee that he will pitch again this season. With the aggressive rehab that Schilling and the Red Sox agreed to, there is still a chance that he may not pitch this season or ever again.

There was speculation among people before the report of Schilling's shoulder injury that this year would be his final year pitching. Now that this has happened, that speculation has become much more of a reality.

With Schilling being out of the rotation for an extended period of time, that leaves an opening for someone to step up. Rumor has it that Clay Buchholz and Julian Tavarez are the two candidates that could be vying for that spot in the rotation.

This could be Clay Buchholz's time to shine. After his no hitter last season, he could turn out to be just what the Red Sox need while Schilling works through his rehabilitation.

You have questions; we have answers

JOEL GARREAU
THE WASHINGTON POST

If we didn't shut off our cell phones before takeoff, would airplanes fall out of the sky?

Probably not, pilots say, but let's not find out the hard way.

Do cellphones cause car crashes?

They're as distracting as driving drunk, according to some studies, but almost seven times less distracting than trying to catch a spilling beer can at 60 mph, according to others. People who text while driving, research suggests, should be horsewhipped.

Do cellphones fry your brain?

"Overall, research has not consistently demonstrated a link between cellular telephone use and cancer or uny other adverse health effect," the National Cancer Institute says. But a recent study claims late-night cellphone radiation is what causes adolescent sleeplessness and confusion, to which parents have responded, "Yeah, right."

I use my cell's backlight to find things in the dark. Am I weird?

Perhaps. But two-thirds of us do it, according to Sprint.

Is there anything uglier than a cellphone tower?

A cellphone tower disguised as a palm tree.

Are cellphones killing off the bees?

Only if you close the lid on one.

Power pants for ladies are back

EMILI VESILIND
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When was the last time you stepped into a pair of proper trousers, ladies?

With jeans and dresses dominating our closets these last few years, pants have been getting a bad reputation -- and for good reason. Black slacks once were so ubiquitous as office wear that we might as well have been wearing hospital scrubs.

With the waning popularity of premium denim (begone, $200 jeans!) and the shift toward dressier, more powerful silhouettes, a pants revolution is fast upon us -- and we're not talking elastic-waist slacks.

Think Hepburn or Hutton, Dietrich or Hall (as in Annie). The new silhouette is dramatic and wide -- slouchy around the middle or slightly high on the waist. When done well, pants narrow your waist and lengthen your legs.

Call it the power pant and get ready to see versions of it everywhere: Designers, including Proenza Schouler and Alexander Wang, showed glam versions of the look on New York's runways.

Los Angeles fashion designer Arianna Pistilli, a former accessories designer for Trina Turk, so believes in the versatility of trousers that this month she's launching a collection based around them, called Parker & Barrow (the surnames of Bonnie and Clyde).

Pistilli offers tips on how to work the new silhouette:

^Nix the Flare

Pant legs should flow seamlessly from waist to floor, Pistilli says, and move like liquid around your feet. "Look for a smooth break at the knee," she says, "not an obvious flare -- that's dated."

^Keep It Long

The new trousers aren't just for tall girls but the vertically challenged as well. "A higher rise helps shorter girls," Pistilli says. "It increases the length of waist."

^Menswear

It's tempting to think you should always offset menswear-inspired trousers with feminine tops and sweaters. But if you're going for that legendary look, "any object ... made for men is your ideal pairing," Pistilli says -- "vests, button-downs, ribbed undershirts, long and thin cardigans, tuxedo shirts. They're things that aren't archetypally feminine, but when you carry off a menswear look, it's very Katharine Hepburn."

^Shoe scene

Power pants beg to be worn with heels -- from stilettos to wedges to platform sandals (if you're going for that 1970s "Three's Company" vibe). Make sure the pants partially cover your shoes or you'll be sporting cropped wide-leg slacks, a total fashion faux pas. But you don't have to be in heels to look cute in the new silhouette: "You can definitely wear flats, but your pants have to be perfectly hemmed, and don't, under any circumstances, cuff them. You will look stumpy."

^Party pants

After hours, Pistilli funks up her pants with "more playful stuff on top, like a Brian Lichtenberg octopus-printed tank top or an old Byrds concert T-shirt. Then, I like fitted jackets -- not blazers -- that hit at the hip." Careful to keep it age appropriate: "Wearing a T-shirt with little spacemen on it will make you look like a raver if you're past a certain age."

^Bags and baubles

"Big earrings and an armful of big wooden bracelets -- or a clean cuff -- look amazing," Pistilli says. "It's also a good time to rock a great necklace, paired with a very plain top."

^Bottom line

"Pants have an edge over jeans because they differentiate you from 97 percent of the walking public," Pistilli says. "And they highlight a woman's form in a way that's less obvious than wearing a tight skirt. You stand differently in pants. It's like, even if you're not going to romp around, you could if you wanted to."

WSC Athletics Press Briefing

Tuesday March 4, 2008



Ely Campus Center Lounge

12:45 PM

Students and Campus Community invited to attend

- College and local TV, radio, newspaper to cover each - Communication Dep't classes and/or other academic classes to attend and participate.
- College TV, Radio broadcast – Q&A following presentation

Presented through the Special Programs Office, Student Affairs Division



Fri 02/29	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Table Tennis Tournament 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Basketball for Fun 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym
Sat 03/01	PS3 Challenge 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Intramurals 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	WSKB Band/ Talent Night 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 03/02	Intramurals 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Sunday Night Snacks 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	CAB Comedian Ronnie Jordan 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Mon 03/03	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Spring Break Boot Camp 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wellness Center	MASSPIRG Movie Night 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Savignano Auditorium
Tues 03/04	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	MASSPIRG Movie Night 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Lower Lounge	BHM "The Langston Hughes Project" 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Lounge Lounge
Wed 03/05	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Spring Break Express 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Wellness Center	CAB Coffee House 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Thurs 03/06	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Weight Training 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 Wellness Center	Rockwall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII March 21, 2008 Issue XVIII

Governor Deval Patrick visits Westfield State

JENN KROK
MANAGING EDITOR

Gov. Deval Patrick spoke at Westfield State College yesterday about his vision for the future of education in Massachusetts.

Various issues were covered during the two hour meeting, which Patrick referred to as a "conversation," including MCAS testing, the low funding for schools, high drop out rates, the high cost of testing for future teachers, funding for special education programs and the funding and use of libraries in the school systems. The focus for the meeting was on how the Readiness Project is going to address each of these issues.

The Readiness Project is a project that was developed in 2007 to address education reform issues in the Commonwealth.

Patrick was accompanied by Dana Mohler-Faria, the president of Bridgewater State College, to take questions and comments from the audience that filled the Woodward Gymnasium. Among the audience were mayors from surrounding towns including Northampton, Westfield, Holyoke, Springfield and Chicopee. Members of various school boards around Western Mass were in attendance along with students, faculty and staff from Westfield State College and citizens of surrounding communities.

Patrick said there is still work to do in public education. One of his goals is to figure out "how to have a seamless strategy that starts before kindergarten and continues up through the workforce."

"We have scored twice now at the top of the national report card," he said. "But we still have achievement gaps. We still have skills gaps."

Claire Higgins, mayor of Northampton was present for the meeting. She supports Patrick and the vision he has for the future of education in Mass. "I think he is very concerned and committed to the mission of education and making it work," she said.

Philip Hotchkiss, a professor of mathematics at Westfield State addressed the issue of unequal funding for schools. "Districts are grossly under funded," he said "Is there any chance to re-do public funding so that each school gets the same amount of money?"

Patrick agreed to an extent. He said that he isn't persuaded instinctively that each school district should get the same amount of money because different schools have different needs, but the minimum amount isn't adequate enough.

Trudy Knowles, a professor of Elementary Education at Westfield State and a member of the Readiness Project, spoke strongly on the issue of MCAS testing, which proved to be a favorite topic among other audience members. "We need to stop focusing on supporting the teachers by getting rid of these high stakes test," Knowles said. "The kids have checked out and we need to get them to check back in. Right now they think the only reason they need to learn is to pass these tests."

"If you want to do something great for teachers you need to give them their back their classrooms so their not focused on this test prep all the time," she added. Knowles also commented on Patrick's extended school day idea saying that she supported a voluntary extended day but "making it mandatory would be disastrous."

Patrick's response was that he is in support of high stakes testing but the question is "Is the test that we have the test that we need?"

A library teacher in the Holyoke schools system said that in Chapter 70 of Massachusetts's legislation there is no mention of libraries. "Where do you see the role of libraries in the Readiness Project," she said. "Kids need time to go into the library and find a book that they want to read."

Finding that certain book isn't always possible because it is becoming harder and harder for libraries to keep books on the shelves, she added.

Another woman, who is currently taking classes to learn English, addressed the issue of funding for adult education. She asked if there were any plans to increase funding for adult education classes in Massachusetts. Patrick responded by saying that there are 25,000 people in Massachusetts waiting for English classes. "We know we need to increase the resources there," he said.

Other comments and questions from students and citizens of surrounding towns were addressed dealing with the issues of special education funding, high drop-out rates in Western Mass schools, the future of current education students and the low number of Latino and black teachers in school districts with a high Latino and black student population.

Don Lamothe, a member of the Chicopee School Committee didn't get a chance to be heard at the meeting, but won't hesitate to make suggestions. "I would like to see him (Patrick) sit down and talk with area school committees so there is more give and take," he said. "All of the issues I heard tonight are questions of the school committees."

At the end of the some people were still skeptical of Patrick's plans for education reform but others still have faith in our Governor.

"I think it's great to have a vision like Gov. Patrick has, ", said Southampton Selectman David McDougall, "I'm looking forward to seeing how he is going to fund it."



Photo courtesy of www.bostonherald.com/...l2007l06/patrick.jpg

Top 10 least popular Dr. Seuss books

10. Green Eggs and E. Coli

9. 'Osama's in Pajama's

8. How the Grinch stole his sports memorabilia back at gunpoint

7. One state, two state, red state, blue state

6. The hump known as Trump

5. If I ran the Knicks

4. The cat in the hat that fell in the Applebee's deep fryer

3. Oh the place you wont go because of tougher immigration laws

2. Horton hears a Who via an illegal government wiretap

1. Hop on Spitzer

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

Hotel fire on Spring Break! Check out Page 3

Spring Flowers



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Seniors make March "Make A Wish Month"

The Westfield State College class of 2008, in its efforts to raise enough money to grant a third wish, has declared March "Make A Wish Mouth" at the college. The students are planning a number of events in hopes of raising the $6,000 needed to grant a wish for an ill child.

Since taking on the challenge of raising donations from their sister class, the class of 2006, the seniors have been able to raise enough money to grant two wishes. The first wish granted was to a three year old boy, who wanted to go to Disney World with his family for a week.

For "Make A Wish Month", the class of 2008's council has organized a number of events and fundraisers to raise the $6,000 needed to grant their third wish before graduating this May. Events include a bake sale, a Wish Upon A Star campaign, which has students and faculty donating $1 and signing a star that will be displayed in the college's dining commons, a raffle, and a fundraiser aimed at raising $1,000: if this goal is met, the president of the college, President Dobelle, will kiss a goat. Past events and fundraisers for the Make A Wish organization at the school include the successful Date Auction and the Red Sox raffle, which will also be held at the end of the school year.

"Our counsel has always strived to achieve greatness, and by seeing the family as we sent them to Disney and as they returned home, we knew we had been part of something truly amazing," says class of 2008 president Michael J. Primal of North Attelboro.

The class of 2008 council is made up of eleven students; besides the president, the council includes: Vice President Patrick J. Logan. Sandwich; Treasurer Kerry E. Lyons, Burlington; Secretary Sarah E. Odachowski, Norwood; publicity coordinator Celeste N. Evans, Ludlow; representative to alumni Kelly A. Danner, Bryantville; historian Karen E. Miele, Ludlow; and Senators Joseph D. Dipierro, Windsor, CT, Lisa C. Wilkinson, Winchester, Ashley A. White, Plymouth, and Randi D. Lucius, West Boylston.

To donate to the class of 2008's Make A Wish Month, make checks payable to the Make A Wish Foundation, c/o Westfield State College Class of 2008, and send them to:

Class of 2008
c/o Barbara Hand,
Westfield State College
577 Western Avenue
Westfield, MA, 01583

Colleges under siege

Elizabeth Stack
Voice Reporter

As the events of the Northern Illinois University shooting begin to surface, everyone seems to be on edge about how frequent these occurrences are. Feb. 14, 2008, 27 year-old Steven Kazmierczak walked into a geology lecture hall at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and shot five people before killing himself. He was a graduate student who had already received his undergraduate degree from NIU a few years prior. This attack comes just shy of a year after the Virginia Tech (VT) shooting, which has gotten a lot of people beginning to see the incredible vulnerability of campuses across the nation.

Though these attacks are occurring at schools far from the comfort of Westfield State, we have to wonder how soon it will be before smaller colleges are affected by such terrible events. Both NIU and VT are much larger schools than WSC, however what do we have set up here that could prevent such a disaster? Do our students feel safe on this campus? Is public safety really prepared to execute a plan in case someone were to disturb our precious home? These are just some of the ideas which have begun to work through all colleges basic core. So as we pray for those so greatly affected by the massacres which are beginning to occur across the nation, we all must wonder, are we next?

When we began looking at colleges years ago, back in high school, something which we considered, but mostly left for our parents consideration, is our safety during our four years here at WSC. Colleges were once considered stand-ins for our parents, though we have begun to move away from such an ideology, now with all of the incidents which seem to have stemmed back from the Columbine High School shootings, it seems as though the "parental control" aspect of colleges may be making a comeback. Though we are all legally adults on this campus, we still need to be safe from outsiders, and even worst, we need to be protected from ourselves.

I was lucky enough to get some one-on-one time with the Chief Michael Nockunas, Director of Public Safety at WSC. Chief Nockunas had a lot to say about the safety of Westfield, and how we are definitely as prepared as we could possibly be for any kind of attack. There are many ways in which WSC is prepared for any form of attack, according to chief Nockunas. There is a book in the Chief's office which has the names and information for all important administrators at WSC and outside entities and the plans for any kind of catastrophe which may occur, portions of this plan are around WSC though in the ones hanging in the academic and dormitory walls are what students should do, this book is for the public safety officers and administrators. All of the officers who work on campus have had active shooter training, which is not training for hostage situations, but for live shootings, just like those at VT and NIU. This past May all of the officers were joined by the Massachusetts Tactical team, or the SWAT team, for training in case of any kind of "catastrophic event" were to occur on campus.

Another system which is being put into place is a communication system which would allow Public Safety to alert students through text messaging, phone calls, and email should someone be attempting to harm the students. This system, Chief Nockunas assures me, is not a messaging system for alerts other than emergency alerts. He urges students to sign up for this service as soon as it becomes available, and more information is guaranteed to follow. This system had been in place during the NIU shooting, and it has been reported that through this system about 80 percent of that campus was alerted of the shooter. With that campus being substantially larger than our own WSC, there is a definite possibility that we will be safe in case of any kind of emergency.

Based on the research done about the shooting and about what Public Safety has done, and is willing to do it is safe to say that WSC is a safe place for all who wander its campus. Should an attack occur, whether it be from an outside entity, or from a student, Westfield State College is prepared for any kind of an emergency without changing its policies as it is. This being said, WSC is an incredibly safe campus and this is due to very small, administrative changes, so there is no need to worry about a crack-down with visitors or curfews of any kind, we are a safe campus and we will remain so through the changes which are to occur through the administration.

Editor's Desk



Not too much to report this week. Hope everyone had a great Spring Break!! I didn't have the chance to go anywhere nice & warm, but I did spend a ton of time being lazy and doing nothing; and that sounds like a real good vacation to me.

Sorry that the paper has been slightly sporadic this semester. I'm a lot busier than I anticipated, but with what, I want to thank my amazing staff for helping me out! They do everything I ask, whether it's cover a story last minute, come in and help me layout the pages, stay level-headed when I cancel, reschedule, cancel and then reschedule again.

So a big thanks to them for making my senior year a little bit easier :)

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Colby, Jeff and Molly representing the school in Paris



Midterms

Westfield State goes wireless

21st Century Learning is Upon Us

JOSHUA SILVIA
VOICE REPORTER

In the past week, Westfield State College has taken another step forward in improving student learning. After a long, and grueling process, the college will have wireless Internet access through out the entire campus in the fall of 2008. In previous years, there have been minor set backs that did not allow this plan to happen. With a new President and a talented Information Technology department the plan will take action in the fall.

Over the past two years the college has implemented the wireless network in certain areas. Specifically, it has been up and running in the library, dining commons, Scanlon banquet hall and the academic buildings. In the case of the President and the Executive Director of Information Technology, Mr. Hirtle, that was not good enough. The next phase of the plan is to have wireless in all the residence halls, in open space such as the campus green, Stanley Park and the athletic facilities at the Woodward Center.

With the wireless plan now in the home stretch there are only a few more steps that need to be taken. Most people might think the steps that need to be taken to have a wireless campus are difficult and extremely challenging. Surprisingly, the wireless program is not as technically difficult as it might seem but is time consuming to get it up and running. "You need a lot of wires in order to go wireless," Mr. Hirtle said. While it might be time consuming and a lot of wires the benefits are endless.

Having a complete wireless campus gives opportunities and options to students, faculty and everyone in the campus community. Are you possibly looking to get out of a stuffy classroom and be in a soothing environment? You can now relax on the campus green and access a wireless connection with your laptop. Would you ever want to do a group project outside of the library? The option is now available as you and some of your classmates could possibly meet at Stanley Park and use wireless access. A wireless network gives new capabilities that were once thought impossible. Having this type of access and flexibility will have Westfield as a program for other colleges to follow. "Westfield will be at the cutting edge of academic institutions," President Dobelle said. While the new access of wireless on campus will affect a vast majority of people it will arguably affect students the most.

At any time and place this upcoming fall students will be able to access the wireless network. Whether it is in residence halls or the parking lot, you will be able to access it. This freedom and flexibility has students excited. "It's an amazing tool but a tool is only as good as the people who use it," Sophomore Mark Lavallee said. Due to its flexibility, accessibility and other components that you can do with it the students on campus will surely use this tool to their advantage. This exciting new tool to improve student learning and faculty teaching would not have been available had it not been for two departments.

As with any great program or plan to benefit people there are those who are behind the scenes to make it a great product. In this case, the President and the Information Technology department will make the wireless program become a great asset to the college. The President's role in this process has been the funding and not surprisingly making the final decision to help Westfield State College become a more well rounded, learning environment. "I was hired to make decisions," President Dobelle said. In his brief time here it looks to be another good decision on the President's part. As for Mr. Hirtle, his part in the process is more of the technical part. He will be doing testing, getting the system up and running and maintaining it. Mr. Hirtle understands the demand of wireless connection and is happy to accommodate it. "Students are so accustomed to this technology. They have it at home and expect it here and we want to provide this source," Mr. Hirtle said.

With a financial plan approved and a hard working Information Technology department the wireless program is set up for success. Students won't have to walk to certain buildings to get wireless access but can use it in comfortable settings such as their own rooms. Faculty can use this tool to their advantage as well in planning a lesson or in overall teaching. Either way it seems the wireless program will make the entire Westfield Campus Community winners. Get ready to get wireless Westfield!

WSC vacationing students escape hotel fire in Acapulco



Sheets tied together from the bolcony of the blackened Playa Suites. Photo courtesy of Bobby Mortin.

CHRIS FLOOD
LAYOUT EDITOR

A group of 24 Westfield State College students vacationing in Acapulco, Mexico for spring break narrowly escaped a hotel fire at the Best Western Playa Suites.

"I saw a hotel security guard die after receiving insufficient attention," said Brenton Reverauzzi. "I heard of people jumping off of their balconies trying to save their lives." The claim has not yet been officially confirmed, though the majority of Westfield students saw and heard this as well.

The fire broke out in the early morning hours of March 16, 2008. A hotel employee stated that the fire began in the 5th floor laundry room of Tower Two while other reports claimed the fire was started in the basement.

"We were told someone lit a pillow case on fire and threw it down the laundry chute," said Brandon Nergerarian.

The fire alarms at the hotel did not work and many people were sleeping when the fire broke out.

"Dan (Moreno) and I ran up and down Tower One knocking on every door, screaming for people to get out," said Drew Nalewanski.

"I was just getting back to my room and I heard people screaming, then I heard windows being broken (from the pressure of the smoke in the rooms) and I knew I had to get out," said Bobby Martin.

"Everything was black; the hallways, the staircase and the rooms," said Jason Graham after retrieving his belongings from Tower Two the following day.

StudentCity.com said ""We understand that are many different stories going around. All reports to us from authorities on location have stated that every single person has been accounted for. Everyone who required medical attention received it. Two students were taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation, both have been since released. Parents have been notified."

The students spent the night outside, sleeping on the ground. Some had early flights and did not know if they would be able to get their things together in time to leave.

"It was a very stressful ending to an ublievable week," said Joe Connor.



Westfield State College student Collin Boucher waits outside the Best Western Play Suites in Acopulco, Mexico. Photo courtesy of Bobby Mortin

Interested in getting involved?

Signature Papers for the Student Government Association and Class Council Elections are available starting
Monday, March 24th at 12:00pm.

Please pick up Signature papers and guidelines in the Student Government Association room in the Ely Basement (enter through library entrance)

Signature papers must be returned to the Student Government Association by
Tuesday, April 8th at 5:00pm.

If you have any questions or want more information please call
Barbara Hand at SGA x5429
Or
E-mail Execsec.sga@wsc.ma.edu

The rap on whites who try to act black

STACEY P. PATTON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

It was a tale of sex, violence and a girl crossing the color line. It was raw, gripping, sad and triumphant, tracing the beroine's successful escape from an environment of abandonment, abuse, poverty and gangs. It was supposed to be true.

Not a word of it was.

The recent media frenzy over Margaret Seltzer's "Love and Consequences," yet another hoax memoir published by yet anotber respectable publishing house, has subsided, but perplexing questions remain: Why would a writer take the huge risk of publishing an easily discredited story, and what enticed a respectable publishing house to buy and promote it?

As a former foster child who actually lived the reality of some of what Seltzer put forth as her own experience, I find the answer in a long history of white Americans' voyeuristic fascination with — and perhaps sometimes even envy of — black people.

The appeal of Seltzer's work lay in how she positioned herself between America's two races, black and white: She claimed to be a half-white, half-Native American girl growing up poor in a dysfunctional black world. In fact, she is from a white, upper-middle-class California family. And her story is only the most recent in a long line of literary narratives, entertainments and ethnologies in which white people put on blackface to act as messengers to their white brethren, telling them what life is or was like in the 'hood or on the plantation. The messages they bring back are of black dysfunction, crime and violence, but also of black sexuality, athleticism and soulful musicality. These stories may then reaffirm white audiences' perception of black dysfunction and allow them to use blacks as a negative counterpoint for their own images of normalcy and to affirm their sense of superiority.

But stories written by blacks about blacks don't seem to offer the vast white reading public that same sense of well-being. My own memoir, "That Mean Old Yesterday," actually mirrors some scenes Seltzer described in her bogus book: being sexually and physically abused, carrying my possessions in trash bags from foster home to foster home, enduring painful hair-braiding rituals, handling illegal guns.

But unlike hers, my book was scrupulously vetted by my publisher. I was asked to provide police reports, medical records, witness statements, and the names of social workers and foster parents. Unlike Seltzer, I actually had to meet my editor in person. Nothing was taken at face value.

Seltzer tapped into that long-standing white fascination with blackness whose roots stretch back to the 1600s and reached its apotheosis in the minstrel show.

Those shows, in which white performers in blackface sang and acted like African Americans, rose in popularity in the 1850s and '60s. As issues surrounding the abolition of slavery intensified, the performances allowed whites to portray blacks as stupid, lazy, sexual and unfit to participate in democracy, reinforcing dominant views about black inferiority. These racist spectacles played before mostly native-born and immigrant working- and middle-class white male audiences. They were most popular with Northern laborers, many of whom had never seen or interacted with blacks.

"Blacking up" as a widespread form of entertainment held sway into the turn of tbe 20th century but began to die out by the early 1920s. But the popular minstrel stereotypes — the lazy coon, the dandy, the bappy darkie, the mannish mammy, the wanton jezebel, the watermelon and chicken thief, and the pickaninny — all moved to comics, radio and film.

These images influenced Al Jolson, who performed in blackface singing songs such as "My Mammy" and "Swanee." Listeners were captivated by the famous "Amos `n' Andy" radio show, featuring the voices of white actors Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll. Singers such as Eddie Cantor, Bing Crosby and Judy Garland appropriated black cultural aesthetics into their acts.

The most familiar expression of white fascination with blackness was Elvis Presley. Though most widely known as "The King," he was also referred to as "The Wlite Negro" by detractors who feared that his lyrics and bodily gyrations were a corrupting influence on white middle-class youths.

Throughout the 1950s and '60s, Bob Dylan and others would also borrow from black music. To make themselves sexually alluring, white female singers including Mae West and Janis Joplin mimicked the styles of black performers such as Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith.

Most of these white artists made undeniable contributions to American popular culture. At the heart of the matter, though, lies the question of whose voice should speak about and interpret the black experience in America — and whose voice white America wants to hear.

The trend of whites' interpreting black culture for white audiences continues with the likes of Eminem, the discredited rapper Vanilla Ice and the white character "Buckwild," a.k.a. Becky, from the modern-day coon show "Flavor of Love." Even Paris Hilton put on blackface in her reality show "The Simple Life."

Today it appears to be cool for white middle-class youths to spit rap lyrics, wear sagging jeans and call each other variations of the N-word. It's cool to act black without having to live with the reality of actually being black in America. Blackness has become a commodity, along with crime, violence and other kinds of social dysfunction. Even black artists and writers have trafficked in black dysfunction, seeing that they can make money by using the stereotypes in their own work. Think of gangsta rap, or former Washington Post reporter Janet Cooke, who had to return a Pulitzer Prize in 1981 for concocting a story about an 8-year-old black heroin addict.

The black middle class has persistently challenged white depictions of its experience with counter-narratives, emphasizing respectability, thrift, domesticity, hard work, religion and education. But uplifting depictions of black progress apparently aren't very marketable to white audiences, while black failure, pathology, sexuality, criminality and music-making continue to fascinate.

The folks at Riverhead Books seem to have embraced Seltzer's minstrel act because they thought it would sell. The idea of a vulnerable white girl in a black community must have appeared to be a new and sexy variation on an old theme — something it might not have if there were more diversity in publishing's editorial ranks.

Unlike Seltzer, I didn't write my memoir purely to win literary fame and strike financial gold. I wanted to tell the truth about my experience. I wanted to give voice to the thousands of anonymous foster children and abused children who slip through the cracks, and to effect some kind of change so that they, like me, might find a way out of their world of dysfunction and sorrow.

That Seltzer appropriated their story makes me angry. But that white America appeared ready to lap it up as an "authentic" account of a world it knows so little about is what I find really troubling.

Protestant Chaplain's Column

John 9:1-41 tells the story of a man who is blind from birth and who gains his sight through Jesus. The story opens with the assumption that bad things happen to people because of their sin or the sin of a parent. The question is asked of Jesus, "Who sinned? This man (prior to birth) or his parents?" Jesus rejects the question, and shifts the focus away from the question of assigning blame to one of speaking about how God is at work in the world bringing about wholeness despite the presence of problems.

Jesus wants the blind man to be whole, and heals him. Sadly, others in the passage are not willing to give up the blame game or are willing to allow their carefully constructed belief systems to adapt to allow for a fundamentally positive act. These individuals will reject the blind man who is now one with sight.

The blind man receives a gift and is able to see. Those who think they "know" AND "see" the truth, are blind and remain blind.

The whole story then becomes one about the importance of learning to see the presence of truth in the world and the presence of God in the world.

Every human baby is born blind. Biologists will tell you that a baby can see, because their eyes see light and dark. Frankly though, newborn babies do not recognize faces, nor anything else in their world. As time passes, the child gradually learns to recognize the faces, first those that bring attention, as well as various objects. In time this development becomes rather sophisticated. With a little training, the eyes will soon be able to recognize scratches, see the scratches as letters, form the letters into groups, see the groups as words, form the words into longer groups, see those groups as sentences and ideas. Incredible! As the ability to see is developed, incredible gifts follow.

Learning how to see truth is also a gift. One that also needs development.

Time and again, we have heard about and sometimes even participated in blindly following; only to discover that we had been deceived. Wars have been fought because individuals and groups have been blinded by fear or anger. Individuals have been ostracized because others have refused to see them as individuals worthy of respect. Sometimes our own passions so blind us, that as individuals we have done things that we normally would not have done.

Almost every commercial I have seen tries to convince me that I will be happier if I purchase that product. Many of my acquaintances try to convince me to enter into their choices. If I believed every commercial, I'd soon be broke and have a thousand more terrible habits. Likewise, the choices of my acquaintances are not always wise, healthy, or good for me.

Jesus gives the blind man sight. With his newfound sight, the formerly blind man has some choices to make. As the narrative unfolds, we see how perceptive he becomes and how he is able to see truth.

Jesus wants you to develop your sight so that you can see truth.

I will not try to tell you that the religious world has a lock on truth. We don't! In the story of the blind man who gains his sight, the religious world demonstrates how blind it can also be. At the same time, Jesus clearly embraces the religious world. I repeat his message. Jesus wants us to see the truth. Jesus wants us to embrace wholeness. A healthy religious world teaches us a different way of seeing, one that can lead to a more profound wholeness in life. There is a reason why religious people are by and large happier and healthier than their counterparts in society.

When Jesus heals the blind man, he expects nothing and he asks for nothing in return. As the blind man develops his own sight, he will come to see in Jesus a more wholesome way of being.

I lived in the Southeast Nebraska for five years. Sometimes in the midst of winter, I would comment on how beautiful the prairie grass looked. Invariably the response was, "It's brown!" Their eyes were not seeing. The grass was filled with a hundred variations of browns and bronzes. The longer I lived in that region, the more my eyes learned to see.

Develop your ability to see: both literally and figuratively. Going through life blind is both terrible for you and disastrous on others.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Avenue (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred E-mail is BSchoup@hotmail.com.

LAST CALL...



CommuterCommuterCommuterCommuter...

Wednesday, March 26th 12-1 PM

President's Commuter Lunch....FREE

Westfield State College President Evan Dobelle wants to have lunch with WSC Commuters - those who want to have a great lunch and speak with the President if they choose are asked to go the Campus Center Service Window in the Ely Campus Center and request a FREE ticket.

The "Commuters Lunch with the President" will take place *Wednesday, March 26th*
From 12 – 1 p.m. in the Scanlon Banquet Hall C

Don't wait – come by and have lunch anytime during the noon hour on March 26th....you do not have to be there the whole hour – get your ticket today.

Schell does it again

MOLLY COYLE
VOICE REPORTER

With a simple black and white graffiti painted set and perfectly choreographed blocking, John Schell and Student Theatre Association presented "interview" (yes, with a lower-case "I") by Jean-Claude van Itallie February 13-16 in Ely Studio Theatre.

With eerie sounds of static in the background and a pitch black floor and walls painted with white graffiti, the audience sits eagerly, knowing that, as usual with STA shows, they should get rid of all expectations they had when entering the door.

Right off the bat, Schell's actors, eight in all, stroll in, and all movements seem to be perfectly choreographed as they all perform in what appears to be one big dance number. Each movement works completely in synch with the other actors and gives the audience the feeling of eight actors working in one mechanical, well-oiled machine. Even overlapping lines, which can become overwhelming if not done properly, came together in what came across as organized chaos, not simply a mess of jumbled words.

The simplicity in the costumes (red and blue shirts and black exercise pants), the lighting, the sound and the set let the audience focus completely on the acting and the message of the play, and nothing else.

The play itself has a strong message: sometimes humans can become mechanized. With scenes that give insights into the lives of each character (the red shirts start out inhuman and gain more depth along the way, and the blue shirts move in the opposite direction), at times the audience laughed at the hysterics of a nerdy, twitchy middle aged man, the antics of an overly cocky man running for governor, a smoking step-aerobics instructor, and a rambunctious woman who couldn't make it to a party because she died— but the laughs weren't all that captured the audience's attention. Moving performances of desperation and anxiety grabbed the audience by the throat and refused to let go until the scene was over.

Schell's adaptation of "interview" was truly a unique and rewarding journey. Although initially jarring, this shake helps to open your mind and heart, even if it's just for half an hour or so.

'John Adams' scores as HBO seeks new leader

MATEA GOLD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK -- As HBO contemplated who should replace Entertainment President Carolyn Strauss after her exit this week, the premium cable network was buoyed by solid early ratings for its seven-part miniseries "John Adams."

The first two episodes, which aired Sunday, drew 2.65 million viewers on average, one of the network's highest viewerships for a premiere in recent months. The miniseries, starring Paul Giamatti and Laura Linney, airs Sundays through April 20.

A different HBO project did not fare so well.

The network has decided to drop "12 Miles of Bad Road," a dramedy by "Designing Women" creator Linda Bloodworth-Thomason that executives originally had touted as one of the most promising series for the coming year.

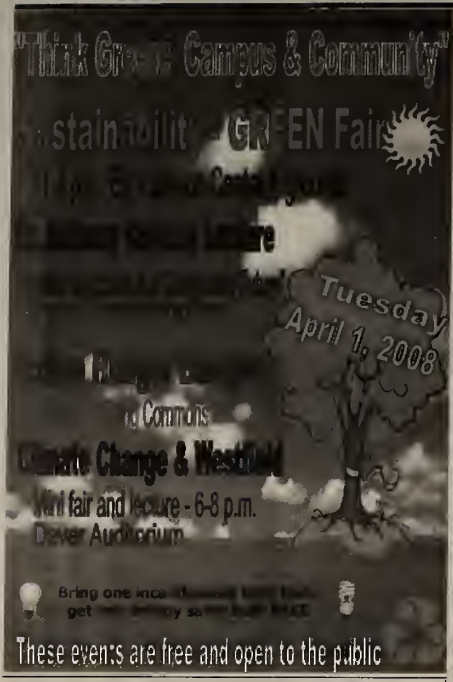
After viewing all six episodes that were completed before the three-month writers' strike that started in November, HBO officials concluded that the hourlong show was too broad for the premium cable channel, according to network sources.

The program, produced by Bloodworth-Thomason and her husband, Harry Thomason, stars Lily Tomlin as a Texas real-estate matriarch.

HBO, which co-produced the show, allowed the Thomasons to shop the series to rival networks, but several other broadcast and cable channels have passed on it, including TNT and Lifetime, sources said.

A spokeswoman for the Thomasons disputed that, saying negotiations were ongoing.

The network's dissatisfaction with "12 Miles" was seen as one of the factors that contributed to the departure of Strauss, an HBO veteran who had helped nurture programs such as "The Sopranos" and "Six Feet Under." She has not commented on her exit but is in discussions to work with HBO in a producing deal.



Happy 21st Birthday, Colby!!!

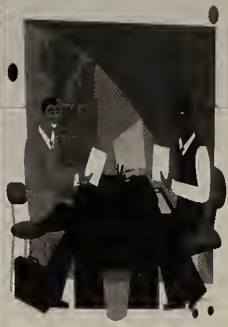


On-Campus Interviews

What Are You Waiting For?

Companies Interviewing:

Advantage Sales & Marketing
Ryder System Inc.
Enterprise
Fastenal
Target Stores
Automatic Data Processing
Commerce Insurance
Sherwin Williams
Lowes Home Improvement
CVS Stores
Walgreens Stores
Guildford Specialty Group
New England Center for Children
The Key Program
Amica Insurance
Perkins School for the Blind
SABIC Innovative Plastics
And others!!



End of March through April!

Signing up is as easy as 1, 2, 3!!!

Visit:
https://www.wsc.ma.edu/careerservices

. Click on Students then "OWL LINK"

Contact Junior Delgado
Office of Career Services
Lammers Hall Annex
(413) 572 - 5206

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Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Owls complete succesful season

Zach Farley
Sports Reporter

The Westfield State men's basketball team returned to the Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference (MASCAC) Championship game for the second straight year and came within a victory of capturing its first tournament title. Despite falling to Salem State in the championship game the Owls finished 19-9 and defeated all their MASCAC opponents at least once during the season.

The Owls, who were led by senior captain and second team all-conference selection Ryan Mauer, were able to go into a hostile Fitchburg State environment in the MASCAC semifinals and avenge two earlier season losses.

Westfield had tough early-season games and got out to a 2-3 start, but the strong-willed team rallied around each other and got hot. Westfield won its next eight contests for a 10-3 start heading into conference play.

It was a highly competitive season for the conference and it showed in Westfield's play. The Owls' best conference stretch was a 7-2 record, which takes into account big wins at Salem State in overtime, a blowout win against Framingham, and a huge victory on the road at Fitchburg State.

"The overtime win against Salem State was our best of the season, it was an exciting battle that I was glad to be a part of." said Westfield State head coach Rich Sutter.

Westfield State was most of the year by the scoring of senior guard Ryan Mauer, who averaged 15.8 points per game. Mauer was named to the all-conference second team, and finished with 743 career points in his two years at Westfield State.

He led the Owls in free throws made with 117 and also 3-pointers made with 31. In back-to-back wins against Worcester and Salem, Mauer poured in 31 points in both games.

In the first round of the MASCAC tournament, the No. 3 seed Westfield took on a solid Worcester State team. Westfield struggled early but caught fire from behind the arc which helped them pull away. In the effort, younger stars stepped up and made big shots including sophmores Brandon Mauer and Joe Dicruttalo, and freshman Vinny Baker.

Junior captain Dave Jaehnig also was a key factor in the Owls' success. The Quincy native played nearly every position while leading the team in minutes. He was second in scoring, averaging 14.4 points per game. Jaehnig was a first team all-conference selection; he led the Owls in blocked shots and was second in rebounding (5.9 per game).

Powered by an incredible 20-0 run at the start of the second half in the semifinal game at Fitchburg the Owls controlled the inside with forwards Matt Badjo and Drew Pereira. Badjo had 10 points and nine boards, while Pereira went for 12 points on sweet down low moves.

Westfield then moved onto the finals at Salem, a team it had beaten twice during the regular season. With Westfield down just two in the second half 40-38, Salem made a run and Westfield, for the first time all year, couldn't respond.

"Obviously our goal is to win the MASCAC title, but I have to be happy with the production," said Sutter. "There were some who said this team couldn't even make it to .500, but I don't hear them now."

The Owls played a stalwart defense allowing an average of 62.9 points per game, which ties them for 25th nationally in scoring defense.

"We gave a great defensive effort this season" said Sutter. "One of our strengths was we could take out the best player on the other team."

The Owls lose two of their senior captains in Mauer and guard Andrew Deffer. However, they will maintain leadership with Jaehnig and Badjo returning for senior campaigns.

"We are returning seven of our top eight next season. I think we can get guys to keep improving and become more consistent next season." said Sutter. "This group really matured into a unit that understood the game, they started to come together and play well on both ends."

The Owls can also look for leadership from junior point guard Chris Kinback. Besides leading the team in steals and playing tough defense, Kinback is responsible for setting the proper plays on offense.

"The one thing I will remember about this season is that it was a good group of guys." said Ryan Mauer "They were always fired up on the bench and it made for a great year."

Upcoming Home Games

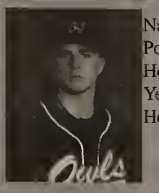
Baseball (4-5)
3-22: versus Albertus Magnus at 12:00 noon
3-25: versus Elms College at 3:30 p.m.

Softball (5-3)
3-27: versus Elms College at 4:00 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse (0-0)
3-25: versus Lasell at 7:00 p.m.
3-27: versus Norwich at 4:00 p.m.

*Records as of March 18th

Player Profile



Name: Jeff Ackerman
Position: Infield
Height: 5'11"
Year: Freshman
Hometown: Beverley

#6

.375 Batting Average
2 Home Runs*
5 RBI

*Team Leader

Celtics blast Rockets

Robert McGinnity
Sports Columnist

On Tuesday night, the Boston Celtics (53-13) took on the red hot Houston Rockets (46-20).

The Rockets were riding an amazing 22 game winning streak going into this game. The Celtics played on Houston's home court due in part to the road trip they have been on.

Boston is coming off a two point win over the defending champion San Antonio Spurs the previous night.

Tempers flew early as Rajon Rondo and Rafer "Skip to my Lou" Alston got into a shoving match which almost led to a fight on the first play of the game.

The Celtics came into the game ranking 1st in most defensive category's in the NBA. The game went back and forth during the first quarter with everyone contributing for the Celtics. At the end of the quarter Houston led the Celtics 22-21. Both teams jockeyed back and forth settling upon a 40-40 ballgame at halftime. The surprise of the first half was the strong play from Leon Powe scoring 13 points. He added an inside presence when Kevin Garnett was resting on the bench.

Both teams came into the game first place in their respected conferences, Celtics in the east and the Rockets in the west. Paul Pierce played out of his mind along with Kevin Garnett. Both players needed to have a great game with Ray Allen, one of the big 3 sidelined with a sore ankle. Pierce scored 20 points making big plays when the C's needed them. Garnett chipped in with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Together they had 42 of the team's 94 points, nearly half the team's points.

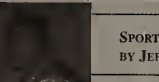
The big surprise of the night was Leon Powe's 21 points off the bench, making 8 of 12 shots from the floor.

Houston's super star Tracy McGrady was held to 8 points by Boston's inexorable defense. The Celtics came out firing on all cylinders after halftime setting the tone early. A hard foul was committed on Tony Allen, who later left the game with a bruised hip in the third quarter.

The Rockets got out scored by the Celtics 32-16 in the 3rd quarter, which had them trailing by 16 going into the fourth. The fourth quarter is where the Celtics poured it on. They opened up their lead to 77-56 which was the largest of the night.

The Rockets transcended expectations by winning 22 games in a row leading up to this game, but fell back to earth after facing our mean green. Garnett threw down a monstrous dunk with 2:07 left in the game which was the cherry on top to a very well played game. The final score was Boston 94 and Houston 74. The bench looked really strong, showing they are able to come into games and hold leads that the starters build. The effectiveness of our bench play will be crucial when we get toward playoff time.

All and all the Celtics showed why they are the best team in the league, on national television no less. The luck of the Irish is back in full swing again, hopefully, we will find a pot of



Sports Editor's Note
by Jeff Dale

With so many things going on right now, Colby, Molly and I are leaving for Paris Friday. Papers and project to get done before we leave, I still can't help be caught up in the great season the Boston Celtics are having.

This time last year the Celtics were an after thought, a joke and the cheapest ticket in town. Now? Well, things have certainly changed.

This time last year I was more interested in which young stud the Celtics would receive in the draft. Now I'm trying to project what the match up will be in the first round.

The Celtics are without a doubt the best team in the NBA. If you had told me that sentence last year I would have laughed in your face. But after Monday's gutty win over the defending champion Spurs, and Tuesday's thrashing of the streaking Rockets, the Celtics are the toast of the town.

Monday's victory made it the first time the Celtics swept the season series with the Spurs since the 1988-89 season. In Tuesday's match the Celtics only managed to blow out a Rocket team that had won 22 straight games, the second longest winning streak in NBA history.

Unfortunetly for me I don't know if the Celtics beat the Mavs last night, as it is Tuesday night, (page layed out Wednesday, prints Thursday, and ships Friday for those who are wondering) but if they did win it will make them 55-13 on the season. Not too shabby for a team who had the second worst record in the league last season.

Finally as I said ealier we all leave Friday for Paris, which leaves one question to be answered. Do the French like basketball? I guess I'll find out soon enough.

Au revoir everybody and merci beaucoup Molly, Jenn. Teressa, President Dohelle, Professor Brewester, Professor Layng and everyone who made this dream come true.

Happy Spring!

Fri 03/21	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Table Tennis Tournament 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Intramurals 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Parenzo Gym
Sat 03/22	WSC Baseball vs. Albertus Magnus 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Alumni Baseball Field	Intramurals 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	WSKB Band/ Talent Night 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 03/23	Sunday Mass 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Chapel Upstairs	Intramurals 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Racquetball Ladder Competition 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Racquetball Court
Mon 03/24	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Wine Tasting 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Scanlon Living Room	Spring Break Boot Camp 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wellness Center
Tues 03/25	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	WSC Baseball vs. Elms College 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Alumni Baseball Field	WSC Women's Lacrosse vs. Lasell 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Alumni Field
Wed 03/26	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Weekday Mass 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Chapel Upstairs	Battle of the Bands 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Thurs 03/27	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	WSC Baseball vs. Springfield College 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Alumni Baseball Field	WSC Softball vs. Elms College 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Alumni Softball Field

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII March 28, 2008 Issue XIX

Westfield State students heroes in Acapulco hotel fire

A spring break trip to Acapulco for several Westfield State College students ended with a terrifying hotel fire, and some real heroism, as the 25 students — along with thousands of students from other colleges — managed to escape uninjured.

The students were staying at the 502-room twin-tower Best Western Playa Suites when smoke from a reported laundry chute fire spread throughout the hotel about 4:30 a.m. Sunday, March 16. They had arranged with the Maryland-based Student Travel Services for a private group tour, not affiliated with the college, for 36 students. Eleven returned home on Saturday, before the fire.

Some quick thinking and cooperation helped all the students escape, and the heroic efforts of three Westfield State students saved hundreds of others. Daniel L. Moreno, a junior from Northborough; Drew W. Nalewanski, a senior from Easthampton; and Brian Stanley, a junior from Thomaston, Conn., all went from floor to floor alerting others of the fire when the hotel's alarm system failed.

"What could have been a terrible tragedy was averted — thanks in large part to our own Westfield State College students," Evan S. Dobelle, college president said. "Although they went off on spring break to have fun, like thousands of other students, they distinguished themselves by coming together in the face of adversity, not only saving themselves, but many others."

Susan LaMontagne, interim vice president for student affairs, said she is contacting students to offer praise and support. "We are so lucky not to have lost lives or property," she said. "It's amazing the way the students worked together and helped each other during this tragedy. I'm very proud of them."

"This kind of experience can demonstrate how it is important for students and all travelers to be cautious in booking trips to insure that agencies and hotels have the appropriate safety measures in place," LaMontagne said. "We encourage all students to do travel research and investigate before purchasing travel packages."

Moreno, who set up the trip, was returning to the hotel with friends after a last night on the town, when they saw the halls filled with smoke. They woke up the other Westfield students, who were staying together on the 4th and 5th floors. Nalewanski and Stanley also had just returned from a night at the clubs. Stanley was in his room when he heard the sound of glass breaking and some screaming from the other tower. The halls were filling up with smoke, so they made their way outside.



Westfield State students wait outside the Playa Suites in Acapulco, Mexico. Photo courtesy of Fabio Caputo.

Outside the hotel, students called out the college's name to gather the whole group together. When all were accounted for, Moreno, Nalewanski and Stanley decided to return inside to alert others still asleep in their rooms.

The students said they noticed the smoke was getting thicker in the lobby, no alarms were going off and only a small portion of the hotel population had evacuated. Students said the hotel staff at first did not believe them when they reported the smoke, but then tried to block access to the towers. It appeared that no one was trying to evacuate the sleeping students.

Moreno started from the ground floor, while Nalewanski and Stanley took the stairs to the top floor to work down.

"I got as far as the 6th floor and I couldn't breathe," Moreno said. "I started to vomit. I had to turn back, but Drew and Brian went all the way to the 18th floor."

Stanley, a volunteer firefighter in his hometown, learned from training to protect his lungs by wrapping a wet shirt or towel around his face. So he and Nalewanski covered their faces with wet shirts. They advised the other students they encountered to do the same.

"We went all the way up to the 18th floor, knocking on every door," Nalewanski said. "Brian would do one side of the hall and I would do the other."

Students poured out. Christopher Flood, a senior from Framingham, saw the scene from the first floor. "I was down in the reception area when people started rushing out, crying," he said. "It was a very emotional scene."

"Drew and Brian were about the last two people I saw leaving the building," Flood said.

Nalewanski said he tried to pull a fire alarm and nothing happened. There didn't seem to be any smoke alarms. Stanley said nearly every fire alarm box he passed had been triggered, but there was still no alarm. Both said they saw no hotel staff or other students knocking on doors in the upper floors.

There was also no sign of fire trucks. "Firefighters didn't arrive until about 40 minutes later," he said.

When he got back outside, Nalewanski saw a hotel employee lying on the ground apparently having convulsions. The student nearly completed his Red Cross EMT certification at Westfield State, so he knew the man needed oxygen. There were still no EMT units at the scene, so he used a self-contained breathing apparatus air unit from a nearby fire truck to help the man breathe clean air until local emergency medical technicians took over several minutes later.

Stanley also has taken Red Cross EMT training at the college, which he said helped him deal with what he called, "the most surreal experience I've every been involved with."

The students said they were able to return to their rooms about 9 a.m. and had about 15 minutes to gather their belongings. They all made their scheduled flights home that day, which was not the case with many other students.

"Many other students missed their flights or lost their belongings," Moreno said. "We were very, very lucky."

The students reported coming back with sore throats and some have gone for medical checkups — a precaution that the college has encouraged.

Meanwhile, parents, who had heard about the fire, were frantically trying to reach their students. "When our plane finally landed, I had eight voice mail messages from my mother," Moreno said.

"Our parents were awesome," he said, noting that his fellow students appreciated the support they got from their parents.

John and Barbara Nalewanski said they finally got word from their son, Drew, at the fire scene, but only after some scary time had passed. "We were monitoring the situation pretty closely," John Nalewanski said. "Reports said kids were waking up to the sound of someone pounding on their doors. And that was probably Drew and his friends."

An economics and management major, Nalewanski plans to start his own business, but also work as a firefighter — a tradition that runs in the family through four generations.

Nalewanski's brother David, also scheduled to graduate this year from Westfield State, is a firefighter for the Easthampton Fire Department and his uncle, William Hurley, is deputy chief for the Northampton Fire Department. Nalewanski's grandfather was also a firefighter.

Top 10 Eliot Spitzer excuses

10. Oh come on, like you were never involved in a prostitution ring.

9. Hookers are fun.

8. Just trying to help the economy.

7. Have you ever been to Albany?

6. It's part of my new MTV prank show "Spitz'd."

5. Haven't been myself since Roy Schieder died.

4. Uh, tainted beef?

3. Whether it's a hooker or your wife, you're always paying for it -- you married fellas know what I'm talking about.

2. Wanted to be known as the Charlie Sheen of politics.

1. I thought Bill Clinton legalized this years ago.

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

NEW! Sudoku puzzle on page 7!



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Dobelle makes an impression

Robert McGinnity
Voice Reporter

On a brisk morning, around ten on a weekend, I strolled down to 333 for my interview with President Dobelle. He is quite the busy man. It took me 2 weeks to schedule an appointment and I lucked out to get it that soon. I went up the stairs to the upper level of 333 skeptical of what laid behind the doors. I knew there would be many important people and I felt lost as I searched for president Dobelle's office. Seeing the dumbfounded expression on my face, a man asked if I was looking for someone. I said "Yes, President Dobelle" and he pointed me in the right direction. As I arrived in his spacious office, I was eased as the receptionist warmly asked if she can help me with anything. I said "I have an interview scheduled with president Dobelle", so she said "Alright, I'll let him know you're here". I was still a bit nervous but was eased a bit, as I was offered a refreshment and was greeted by a cheerful woman. I felt like I was living the high life in this office accompanied by important college liaisons while I read the most recent issue of Focus, the alumni magazine.

I heard that President Dobelle was friendly and personable from sources around campus but, prior to my interview I had only associated with him at the Pancake Dinner that was hosted in his honor to meet with the students. His description was rightly served because it was very easy to communicate and interact with him.

The interview went smoothly and I gained a great deal of information about what he has in store for this great college of ours. Dobelle is from Pittsfield and temporarily resides in New Hall with his wife Kit. They have one son, named Harry who is currently attending George Washington University in Washington, DC. He's a junior and loves it there. Harry is majoring in Chinese, loves music, and has ambition for a career in the Foreign Service. I asked President Dobelle a few questions on his present and future plans for this college. I also asked some questions which were geared to gain some insight of who President Dobelle is as a person. I whole heartedly suggest that if you see him around campus you send a greeting his way, you are assured to get one right back.

Robert McGinnity: What do you plan to have for the coming years here?

President Dobelle: Westfield is a comprehensive, residential, liberal arts college that offers professional degrees. I think it has exceptional faculty, teaching faculty, and I think it has a lot of young people who would really like to have a transformational experience at college, not just a transitional experience which is simply get a degree, get a job; but really learn more about themselves, learn more about the world, and learn about other people. So my interest is to take a really good college and make it a fabulous college.

McGinnity: Did u sign a contract?

Dobelle: No, I'm a yearly employee but, I am a tenured faculty member.

McGinnity: Do you have a favorite part of Westfield State College?

Dobelle: Westfield's different, there's Tommy D's and there's also the Westfield athenaeum, which is a historic 100 year old library downtown. Westfield itself is a historic city, 1669... it's the initial western outpost of Massachusetts. So, it has a lot of history and I like to engage the community. As far as the campus goes, I like the energy of the dining commons, just for that reason. It's not so much the physical space, just the energy of the students. And I like Woodward.

McGinnity: What attracted you to Westfield State College?

Dobelle: Well, very rarely when you choose a career like mine which is to be a college president, can you do it at home. There's just not a lot of colleges and its all about timing... with an available presidency when your available, and generally the answer is no and I haven't been home since 1987. I have been president of colleges now for 21 years and this is the first time at home. And generally most men and women who are presidents never get to be president at home. They retire and go home. Here is my ability to be extensibly at home in western Massachusetts and make a difference. So, that's terrific for me. That's what attracted me here and Westfield's always had a wonderful reputation and so many friends of mine or their children or their parents for that matter, from Pittsfield went to Westfield, so its reputation has always been great.

McGinnity: Would you like this to be your last job before you retire?

Dobelle: That depends if Westfield wants it to be my last job. I have no ambition beyond Westfield. I want to make this a fabulous place and then I'm not the kind of person who I suspect would retire. I want to do other things. It could be teaching here, it could be somehow making a difference in public life, but I don't have any ambition to necessarily go on to another presidency.

McGinnity: You are very adamant in the study abroad program here, why is it such a big priority?

Dobelle: Well, because I know what your future is going to be. Your future in a very flat world is going to have to engage the European communities and Asia particularly. To a degree Africa, South America, and Australia. It just seems to me that students need to have an affordable way to engage different countries. I have talked to a lot of guys that will say well, I've been to New York. I say where did you go and they'll say the Yankees game. Well, that's not New York. I mean New York is downtown, its museums, its theaters, it's a lot of things. I just think that these four years are very precious and exposure is important, I'm also sensitive to cost. A lot of college abroad programs are expensive and you and your famiiies can't afford it. Whether it is a three week January semester, where you might get a credit and be able to travel somewhere. Or a full semester or a full year abroad if it's really no more expensive then being at Westfield. I think it's very important that the opportunity is provided to you and your parents for consideration. Right now we only have 50 or so students out of 5,000 who are abroad and it should really be 50%. Whether it is Dublin, Rome, Tokyo, Bayshing, Cape Town, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, or Puerto Rico. I just think it's very important in the future to be able to be comfortable with folks from other countries.

McGinnity: How is the wireless project going?

Dobelle: It going to be done by September. Everything will be wireless. Stanley park, the green, the athletic fields, across the street will be wireless, the dormitories will be wireless, as well as the academic buildings. The campus will be wireless. And I think that is importation that we can put some bells and whistles on it where you can probably print off your computer. That might that a few more months, but initially by the time you come back to school in the fall we will be wireless.

McGinnity: Are there any other projects in the work?

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Editor's Desk

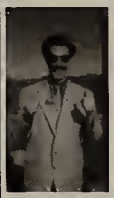


THERE WILL BE BLOOD		
FRIDAY	APRIL 4	7 P AND 11 P
SATURDAY	APRIL 5	7 P
SUNDAY	APRIL 6	7 P & 10 P
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR		
FRIDAY	APRIL 11	12 MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY	APRIL 12	12 MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY	APRIL 13	7 P & 9 P
CLOVER FIELD		
FRIDAY	APRIL 19	7 P, 9 P & 12 MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY	APRIL 20	7 P, 9 P & 12 MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY		
THE BUCKET LIST		
FRIDAY	APRIL 25	12 MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY	APRIL 26	7 P, 9 P & 12 MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY	APRIL 27	7 P & 9 P

All I have to say is, 6 weeks until graduation!!!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Red Sox winning their first game of the season



Spelling accessibility wrong on the sign posted outside the construction in front of ELY

Celiac disease: the unknown food allergy

ASHLEY MCGILLOWAY
VOICE REPORTER

When thinking about food allergies, nuts and dairy are the first that come to mind for most Americans. These are very serious allergies that are still being tested today, but they have been known to our society for quite some time. Not many people actually realize that there is another major food allergy in existence. This allergy is called Celiac Disease.

So what exactly is Celiac Disease? According to the Celiac Disease foundation, the disease is a permanent autoimmune intestinal disorder, found in people who are genetically at risk.

"Damage to the mucosal surface of the small intestine is caused by an immunologically toxic reaction to the ingestion of gluten and interferes with the absorption of nutrients." (celiac.org) In other words Celiac Disease is an allergy to gluten. And right about now you are probably thinking, what in the world is gluten? Gluten is a protein found in wheat, barley, rye and some oats.

If a person with Celiac Disease consumes gluten their immune system reacts by damaging the small intestine. The National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse notes that, "The tiny, fingerlike protrusions lining the small intestine are damaged or destroyed. Called villi, they normally allow nutrients from food to be absorbed into the bloodstream. Without healthy villi, a person becomes malnourished; regardless of the quantity of food eaten." This results in illness for those who have the allergy. After consumption of gluten the person digests it and becomes very sick to their stomach. Stomach pain and head aches are the two most common symptoms after digestion of gluten. Some other symptoms are unexplained weight loss or gain, unexplained anemia, bone/join pain, vitamin K deficiency, depression, irritability, change of mood, fatigue, loss of energy, delayed growth, infertility, miscarriage, canker sores, a rash known as Dermatitis Herpetiformis and tooth discoloration.

Celiac disease is very under diagnosed, but has beome more common in recent years. According to The National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse (NDDIC), "recent findings estimate about 2 million people in the United States have celiac disease, or about one in 133 people." The disease is genetic, but it is not always found right away. Some people with the disease experience no symptoms; others are sick with it their whole lives, but are misdiagnosed. The disease can also be triggered or become apparent in carriers after they have experienced surgery, pregnancy, childbirth, viral infection or severe emotional stress.

I myself have Celiac Disease, and I would like to make people aware of the allergy in slightly less scientific terms. My whole life I complained of stomach pains after I ate. My parents told me I just had a "sensitive stomach." Things became worse in high school when after each meal I had to lie in bed in so much pain that I did not even want to move.

I saw a stomach specialist and tbey tested me for anything and everything that related to my symptoms. I had no energy because I was always feeling sick and I did not understand why. Finally in 2004 my doctor had ruled everything else out and decided to test me for Celiac Disease. He did a blood test and my antibodies revealed the presence of the disease. He then had to take a biopsy of my small intestine so that he could make a final diagnosis. This was the most terrifying part of the process because it was considered a small surgery. Well I survived, and woke up to find out that my life was about to change completely.

After the final diagnosis, the doctor informed me that I would need to change my diet entirely. He explained that gluten was in several of the foods I was eating everyday. This included pasta, pizza, many desserts, and several additives in most other foods. Being from a very Italian family, this idea was very difficult to grasp. I was in denial at first, but then I realized I should not live the rest of my life feeling sick all of the time. I then saw a nutritionist and worked with my doctors to understand what I would need to do.

The gluten-free diet is the only cure for Celiac Disease. I was taught to check all of the ingredients in products to see if they contained gluten or not. I had to cut out wheat, barley, rye, and oats. This also meant cutting out anything that derived from these grains such as modified food starch, MSG, wheat start, malt, and several other additives. I am, although allowed to eat corn, rice, potatoes, sugars, meats, nuts and vegetables as long as they are not processed with any of the unsafe additives.

My parents were tested for the disease because it is genetic. My mother's results were positive, and my fathers negative. This meant my mom had been living with tbe disease without even knowing it. She does not have any symptoms yet, but they could be triggered later on in life. She is not on the gluten-free diet right now. I still encourage her that it would be best for her to not eat gluten. Some effects of the allergy can become worse in the long run. She is slowly veering away from gluten.

Luckily there are several health food stores that sell gluten-free products. They are becoming more popular each year. Many major grocery stores even sell the products. These products include breads, pastas and other foods that are usually made with wheat. In order for them to be considered gluten-free the gluten is substituted with rice, corn, potato or tapioca mainly.

These products are a lot more expensive, and higher in fat. This is the major downside of eating gluten-free. It may seem very extreme, but I would never want to go back to the way I was feeling. I have learned what to eat and what not to eat; it is the best solution possible.

Recently, Budweiser and a few other brewing companies have come out with gluten-free beer. Beer is made with barley; therefore Celiac's cannot drink it. We are only allowed to drink wine and rum. As a college student this is somewhat difficult, but it is nice to see that companies are coming up with alternatives for us.

Today, being a junior in college, I have lived with the disease for four years. My life has made a complete turn around. I know what to eat and what not to eat so that I am not sick all of the time. I bave more energy, and my mood has changed in a positive way. My whole outlook on life has changed for the better.

If anyone out there is feeling sick like I did they should research the disease and potentially get tested.

It may seem quit unreal, but it is a disease that will do a great deal of harm to your immune system. For more information on the disease visit www.celiac.com or www.celiac.org. Also, you can even contact me at amcgilloway0584@wsc.ma.edu.

As my friends and family know, it is a topic I could talk about for hours. They have learnt

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Dobelle - Continued from Page 2

Dobelle: Well, we need to fix faculty offices, I think we need a stop light on Western Avenue, I put a temporary situation in with the police officer to get traffic out of commuter lot, we need to fix the Dickinson lounge, we need to maybe air condition more buildings so they could be used in the summer even more, we need to make sure the bookstore project opens as soon as possible. Right now it is scheduled for November 2009. I would like it to be August before scbool starts. Have a new bookstore ready for everybody. Again it is a year, year in a half from now, but there's all those considerations. I want to make it as great as possible for students and faculty. That's what a college president is suppose to do. It's not dominating an institution, it's listening to what people need, it's trying to set priorities in finding the resources to pay for them and get it done. Its not about telling people what to do, it's about getting things done for people that know what to do.

McGinnity: How is living in New Hall?

Dobelle: It's fine, there's a rhythm to the campus when I get up and go to work, and most kids are sleeping. When I go to bed most kids are in their room about to go out so it's not complicated. But I like it, I respect the privacy of the students, I don't go into the any of the student's rooms and they don't come into my room. But, actually tonight I am having a potluck supper that some students invited me to attend. We've had a couple pizza nights. One was over at Dickinson for tbe apartments and one over at New Hall. We're going do some more this semester. Just bave pizza at 9:00 at night and listen to students with my senior staff.

McGinnity: How's the house searching coming?

Dobelle: Actually, Kit is going around with the realtor tomorrow. So we'll see. It's expensive though. Westfield is an expensive town.

McGinnity: What are some hobbies of yours in your off time?

Dobelle: Reading and fishing, I love fishing. It could be any kind of fishing. River fishing, lake fishing, deep sea fishing, but I have a real passion for fisbing.

McGinnity: What's your favorite sports the team?

Dobelle: It's always been the Red Sox. I'm a positive person, I'm a real Red Sox fan, but I respect the Yankees. Its not like I'm against anybody, I'm for the red sox.

McGinnity: Is that also your favorite sport?

Dobelle: Yes, I think so, as a participant. As a fan I kind of like college basketball, college football, pro football, I like all sports. I mean, I enjoy the Celtics and Bruins, but as a participant my best sports were baseball and tennis.

McGinnity: Do you play golf?

Dobelle: I play golf but I'm not a golfer. Because that gives you the impression that I'm a good golfer. But I like the camaraderie of going out with the guys. I authorized the athletic director to create a Men's and Woman's golf team. So hopefully, a lot of folks might go out for it.

McGinnity: We have a golf course down the street don't we?

Dobelle: Yes, and they have been nice enough to waive the fees for us, so that the team can practice and play.

McGinnity: How do you feel about the Dining Commons and the people that run it?

Dobelle: I had a conversation with Sodexho, which are the corporation that runs it for us. And they got another three years on their contract. They want to extend the contract and I told them we have to come up with hours, quality of food, and other kinds of considerations. The students have a food committee. I want to listen to them carefully and try to improve on it. I don't know a college in the country where people think the food is fabulous and inexpensive. You know it just doesn't work. I go out with people to very high end restaurants and somebody always send their meal back, so the reality is that its kind of subjective, its real personal on what people think, but quality of food and hours is something I think Sodexho needs to look at.

McGinnity: Are you going resign with them or are you looking somewhere else?

Dobelle: They have a three year contract, and they can improve. There are only a handful of corporations in this business so I'm not sure if I can do better, but they can do better by us so we'll see.

McGinnity: Many students love the fact that the Dining Commons is open an extra hour. Do you have any more plans in the future for it?

Dobelle: It ought to be 24/7. Just have coffee and bagels, you get up you want a cup of coffee, you want a bagel. You don't have to have anything special, if its wireless you can bring your laptop and maybe have some flat screen TV's to watch but, to me it's a social area that can be accessed by people who just want to get together and hang. You would probably just have to have the TV off at certain times. If you want to use it at study hall, you can't have guys watching a game. So, we have to figure that out but, those are good problems to figure out, not complicated ones. I also would like to look into having a pub for students 21 and over, maybe a sports bar kind of pub. They can't have guests unless they get real hard cards and there will have to be a torch light to make sure no one is playing with me trying to get in underage. But I would prefer if there is going to be 21 year olds particularly in tbe winter, wanting to have a glass of wine or a beer, not looking for bard liquor but a beer and wine license. I'd rather they stay on campus than driving off in a snow storms, so we'll take a look at that. That might be in a couple of years from now.

Letter to the editor

Editor,

I have to say that I was pretty unhappy with the article "Colleges under siege" in the March 21 edition of The Voice. I found that it perpetuated the false sense of security that seems to be all over this campus.

It should be noted that all of the "preparations" detailed in the article are reactive, meaning that they would take place after the shooting had occurred. It would be wonderful to think that the campus police and the State Police SWAT team are going to be there to protect us and stop an attacker. However, I could not find a single account of a campus shooter being taken out by police since the Texas University clock tower shooter over 40 years ago. This is due to the nature of most attacks involving firearms, which last only a matter of seconds. Furthermore, a SWAT team response is nearly out of the question. At the Columbine shooting it took the first SWAT team over one hour to arrive on scene.

As for the text messaging emergency alert system and its "80 percent effectiveness" during the NIU incident, the public should be aware that those 80 percent were notified of the danger on campus about 20 minutes after the gunman had already shot himself and 21 other people (not five others as your article states).

The simple fact is that no preparation or policy is going to keep a determined attacker from carrying out evil deeds on this campus. WSC is no safer from this type of unannounced attack than any other campus or location in public.

Sincerely,

Andrew Crawford
Student

Protestant Chaplain's Column

John 9:1-41 tells the story of a man who is blind from birth and who gains his sight through Jesus. The story opens with the assumption that bad things happen to people because of their sin or the sin of a parent. The question is asked of Jesus, "Who sinned? This man (prior to birth) or his parents?" Jesus rejects the question, and shifts the focus away from the question of assigning blame to one of speaking about how God is at work in the world bringing about wholeness despite the presence of problems.

Jesus wants the blind man to be whole, and heals him. Sadly others in the passage are not willing to give up the blame game or are willing to allow their carefully constructed belief systems to adapt to allow for a fundamentally positive act. These individuals will reject the blind man who is now one with sight.

The blind man receives a gift and is able to see. Those who think they "know" AND "see" the truth, are blind and remain blind.

The whole story then becomes one about the importance of learning to see the presence of truth in the world and the presence of God in the world.

Every human baby is born blind. Biologists will tell you that a baby can see, because their eyes see light and dark. Frankly though, newborn babies do not recognize faces, nor anything else in their world. As time passes, the child gradually learns to recognize the faces, first those that bring attention, as well as various objects. In time this development becomes rather sophisticated. With a little training, the eyes will soon be able to recognize scratches, see the scratches as letters, form the letters into groups, see the groups as words, form the words into longer groups, see those groups as sentences and ideas. Incredible! As the ability to see is developed, incredible gifts follow.

Learning how to see truth is also a gift. One that also needs development.

Time and again, we have heard about and sometimes even participated in blindly following; only to discover that we had been deceived. Wars have been fought because individuals and groups have been blinded by fear or anger. Individuals have been ostracized because others have refused to see them as individuals worthy of respect. Sometimes our own passions so blind us, that as individuals we have done things that we normally would not have done.

Almost every commercial I have seen tries to convince me that I will be happier if I purchase that product. Many of my acquaintances try to convince me to enter into their choices. If I believed every commercial, I'd soon be broke and have a thousand more terrible habits. Likewise, the choices of my acquaintances are not always wise, healthy, or good for me.

Jesus gives the blind man sight. With his newfound sight, the formerly blind man has some choices to make. As the narrative unfolds, we see how perceptive he becomes and how he is able to see truth.

Jesus wants you to develop your sight so that you can see truth.

I will not try to tell you that the religious world has a lock on truth. We don't! In the story of the blind man who gains his sight, the religious world demonstrates how blind it can also be. At the same time, Jesus clearly embraces the religious world. I repeat his message. Jesus wants us to see the truth. Jesus wants us to embrace wholeness. A healthy religious world teaches us a different way of seeing, one that can lead to a more profound wholeness in life. There is a reason why religious people are by and large happier and healthier than their counterparts in society.

When Jesus heals the blind man, he expects nothing and he asks for nothing in return. As the blind man develops his own sight, he will come to see in Jesus a more wholesome way of being.

I lived in the Southeast Nebraska for five years. Sometimes in the midst of winter, I would comment on how beautiful the prairie grass looked. Invariably the response was, "It's brown!" Their eyes were not seeing. The grass was filled with a hundred variations of browns and bronzes. The longer I lived in that region, the more my eyes learned to see.

Develop your ability to see: both literally and figuratively. Going through life blind is both terrible for you and disastrous on others.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Avenue (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred E-mail is BSchoup@hotmail.com.

Obama's brilliant bad speech

Gregory Rodriguez
Special to the Los Angeles Times

In some ways, Barack Obama's speech on race last week was as brilliant as it was nuanced. But for all its rhetorical beauty, it was also an enormous step backward and, in the end, a rather self-serving call for more discussion about racial grievance in a country that has already done way too much talking.

Until last week, so much of Obama's appeal lay in the fact that he was not asking us to talk about the racial divide. Instead, he offered himself as a living and breathing symbol of racial reconciliation; his very origins pointed to the goal of unity and, from his own account, created in him a desire to bring together opposing sides.

Throughout the campaign, Hillary Rodham Clinton's surrogates repeatedly tried to bait Obama into talking about race; they worked to pigeonhole him (and marginalize him) as the "black candidate." But in the end, it was Obama's own alliances that tripped him up and obliged him to directly address a subject (one that he now says we "cannot afford to ignore") that he had so deftly avoided -- or as the Obamaphiles had it, transcended. For all the kudos the Illinois senator has received for his candor, the very act of delivering Tuesday's address was a defeat. Obama was a much more powerful force for racial progress when he so effortlessly symbolized it, rather than when he called on us to address "old wounds."

People who praised the speech did so in part because it acknowledged the grievances that lie on both sides of the nation's most intractable racial divide. But that's also what was so wrong with it. The discussion of racial grievance -- and other group grievances -- has long since become an institutionalized part of American life, literally and figuratively. There are advocacy groups, think tanks, foundations and scholars who sometimes have produced groundbreaking work but who also have served to reaffirm the idea that American society is a federation of opposing, static and permanently aggrieved identities. Rather than push us beyond race, the institutionalization of racial identity as defined by grievance perpetuates the divisions of the past. The one new thing Obama's speech added to the dialogue was the inclusion of whites to the list of aggrieved (and angry) parties.

For all the "complexities of race" Obama sought to grapple with last week, his explicit equivalence of his white grandmother -- who he said had sometimes expressed fear of black men and uttered racial stereotypes -- with the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., his race-baiting former pastor, was the most unfortunate.

"I can no more disown him than I can my white grandmother," he said. But the comparison obscures the fundamental difference in the relationships. Forget the casual moral equivalence he makes between a pastor's provocative public rants and his grandmother's private utterances; what's more important is that grandmothers are inherited while pastors are chosen.

At least one way to explain that choice is that by allying himself with Wright (who presided over his wedding and baptized his daughters), Obama sought to anchor and legitimize himself in Chicago's black community, which might not have otherwise welcomed an Ivy Leaguer raised in Hawaii by his white mother and grandparents. Without challenging Obama's claim that Wright "helped introduce (him) to his Christian faith," his choice was also invariably a political one, and a very bad one at that.

It's all fine and good that Obama has "condemned" the worst of what he calls Wright's "wrong" and "divisive" comments, but his refusal to "disown" his former pastor is academic. Part of Obama's seductive appeal is that he sees political action in terms of sweeping gestures and crusades. Idealistic young people in particular like the idea of being caught up in a wave of change. Obama even ended his race address with yet another of his patented calls to "come together." In his vision, whites and blacks (and the rest of us!) would move beyond racial discord by fighting common injustices.

But just maybe the complexity of race in contemporary America no longer requires the massive collective action it did half a century ago when blacks in the South were living under Jim Crow, a legal apartheid. Just maybe we don't have to suffer through yet another national debate on race -- President Clinton launched his fruitless Initiative on Race in 1997 quoting, as Obama did, the preamble to the Constitution. Just maybe more progress will be made if average, fair-minded, decent people simply chose not to associate with -- and lend their credibility to -- haters, extremists or sowers of racial discord. Obama could have taken that simple path any time over the last 20 years. He chose not to. Now it's too late.

The television tells us what to weigh

Eryn Carter
Voice Reporter

Weight is an obsession. And it doesn't affect just one or two people; it affects nearly every one in some way or another. But in the United States, the obsession with weight has taken over, especially on our televisions.

With weight loss shows such as Celebrity Fit Club and The Biggest Loser, and shows focusing on the excessively skinny, such as America's Next Top Model and Janice Dickinson's Modeling Agency, the country's view of what's healthy has become much obscured.

The Biggest Loser has taken the country by storm and has motivated many people to take action with their own obesity problems. Contestants on the show are forced to weigh in every episode, after grueling workouts and challenges all week. During some episodes they have to endure a "temptation" challenge in which they are put in or near a room with food or a guilty pleasure and must conjure up the will power to not indulge. During a weigh-in, the men must wear only shorts, while the women must only wear shorts and a sports bra. This is ultimately putting their obesity in the spot light and allowing people to see that they are real people and they are trying to lose weight. The person or team, who has the lowest weight loss at the end of the weigh in, is either voted out or chosen to leave.

On the other end of the spectrum, you have America's Next Top Model. It seems like a fairly harmless show, until you get sucked into it and realize that 90 percent of the women on the show are a size two or smaller and are constantly showed in the kitchen or figuring out what is "healthy" to eat. During the panel, some are told that they need to tone and work on their bodies more. But what about the plus-size models on the show? Plus size on Top Model appears to range from a weight of 140 to a weight of 190, depending on how much the judges like the girl in casting. One girl in particular by the name of Sarah entered the competition during Cycle 4 as a plus size but was criticized nearly every judging for looking less and less like a plus size model.

"I think that Americas Next Top Model doesn't always come out and say that weight is a major concern, they don't have the girls working out or on diet plans, but they do chastise the plus size models if they are 'too' plus size," Janine Riopel, a sophomore criminal justice major said.

But how do you compare two totally different shows, but both apparently with the goal of 'losing weight' and 'being skinny'? In a world where the average woman is between a size 10 and 14, the idea of being a size two, like a model, is unrealistic. Tyra Banks is one of the only judges on the show that loves plus-size models, while many others believe that a plus-size model will never make it in the high fashion world. But the Biggest Loser aims to make their contestants healthy, not a size two. Most lose 50 pounds at least, with most of the winners weighing in over 100. But they are pushed to a level of exercise that they had not experienced before.

Riopel said, "I feel like what you take from a body image portrayed on television depends on what lens you're viewing these bodies through. For example, there are plenty of sitcoms where mothers, daughters, etc. are portrayed in a fairly normal light, while there are shows like the OC where everyone has a below a size six waist. If you can look at shows like that and realize that it's not reality, more or less because societies like this don't actually exist, then you'll have a healthier image of weight.

"Unfortunately both of those shows put a major focus on weight, the Biggest Loser being more prevalent. On the brighter side, they are using people who are fairly heavy and teaching them how to lose weight, which is healthy. Nonetheless, I think it's a bit useless to kick people off who aren't losing weight. It defeats the purpose of weight loss a lot and almost says, if you can't lose weight at our speed you fail."

Weight appears to be a topic that will never cease to die down. People are always worried about how they look and what they weigh, even if they say they are confident with how they look. There will always be something that someone doesn't like about themselves. And it seems like shows such as the Biggest Loser and America's Next Top Model have unknowingly struck a nerve with everyone that watches it, whether it be they feel too big or too ugly.



Photo courtesy of tralalaonline.com/category/the-oc/

"Think Green: Campus & Community"
Sustainability - GREEN Fair
11-4 p.m. Ely Campus Center & grounds
Dr. Anthony Cortese Lecture
"Higher Education in a Sustainable Future"
12 noon - Scanlon Living Room
Tuesday
April 1, 2008
Oxfam Hunger Banquet
4:30 p.m. - Dining Commons
Westfield State College
Climate Change & Westfield
Mini fair and lecture - 6-8 p.m.
Dever Auditorium
Bring one incandescent light bulb, get one energy saver bulb FREE Between 5-6 at the Green Resource Fair.
These events are free and open to the public

On-Campus Interviews!!
What Are You Waiting For?
Companies Interviewing:
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Walgreens Stores
Guildford Specialty Group
New England Center for Children
The Key Program
Amica Insurance
Perkins School for the Blind
SABIC Innovative Plastics
And others!!
End of March through April!
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. Click on Students then "OWL LINK"
For more information:
Contact Junior Delgado
Office of Career Services
Lammers Hall Annex
(413) 572 - 5206

Westfield State to conduct national sports medicine workshop

Professionals from throughout the country will travel to Westfield State College to participate in the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Personal Trainer Certification Workshop. Movement Science, Sports, and Leisure Studies faculty members Teresa Fitts and Holly Noun, among others, will provide participants with comprehensive preparation for the certification examination. The two day workshop will begin on Friday, March 28, in the Woodward Center.

The ACSM is dedicated to "advancing health through science, education, and medicine". Members apply their knowledge, training and dedication in sports medicine and exercise science to promote healthier lifestyles for people around the globe. The Personal Trainer Certification prepares individuals to work as personal trainers in medical, corporate, commercial and community settings.

"As an ACSM Accredited Program, we feel a responsibility to offer scientifically-based, quality programs that help contribute to the exercise scieoce profession", said Teresa Fitts, co-program director of the Health Fitness Program. "With obesity iocreasing aod physical activity decreasing, it is critical that practitioners be certified and knowledgeable."

In addition to participants preparing for the certification examination, several workshops will train them to teach the program at their own colleges and universities.

"It is exciting for us to be training individuals from Hawaii, Missouri, Virginia and elsewhere to bring the workshop back to their communities," said Holly Noun, associate professor of movement science.

Westfield lacrosse routs RIC, 14-5

The Rhode Island College women's lacrosse team could not overcome an early deficit this afternoon, falling to Westfield State College 14-5. The Owls improve their record to 1-1, while the Anchorwomen slip to 0-2 on the young season.

Westfield State featured a well-balanced attack as seven players recorded multiple points, led by freshman midfielder Rachel Dionne (Feeding Hill, Mass.). Dionne posted her first collegiate hat trick, while classmate midfielder Laura Chiricosta (Lexington, Mass) also turned in a three-point effort with two goals and an assist.

The Owls cracked the scoring column early and often, putting the contest out of reach in the first 16 minutes of regulation with six unanswered goals. Dionne keyed the surge with three tallies, while Chiricosta added a goal and an assist.

Rbode Island College briefly halted the visitors' run at the 13:48 mark, when Darby cashed in on a free-position goal. Westfield State senior attacker Kasey Rogers (West Springfield, Mass.) and freshman midfielder Alex Hudyka (East Loogmeadow, Mass.) each found the back of the net to stretch Owls' advantage to seven, while Conte sent the Anchorwomen into the intermission trailing, 8-2.

Westfield State continued to apply the offensive pressure in the second stanza, not allowing its lead to dip below six goals. Senior attacker Sherri Heard (Coventry, R.I.) scored back-to-back tallies to cut the Anchorwomen deficit to 11-5, but the Owls tacked on three insurance markers to seal their first win of the season.

Freshman goalkeeper Gina Simonetti (Bellingham, Mass.) earned her first victory of the season, reaching double figures in saves with 13, while her counterpart freshman Hilary Switzer (Woonsocket, R.I.) registered five saves.

Heard and senior midfielder Sydney Culbertson (North Kingstown, R.I.) paced the Rhode Island College attack with two points each. Heard tallied a pair of goals, while Culbertson added a marker and an assist. Sophomore attacker Emily Conte (North Providence, R.I.) and classmate midfielder Meridith Darby (Middletown, R.I.) each recorded their first goals of the campaign.

Moss secures Opening Day win for Sox

TERESA DOLLFUS
SPORTS COLUMNIST

With a solo homerun in the 9th inning to tie the game at 4, Brandon Moss helped the Red Sox secure their first victory of the season. The irony of it all is that Moss wasn't even scheduled to be in the lineup.

Moss got the nod from Terry Francona when J.D. Drew came down with tightness in his back just before the start of the game. Francona's decision to put Moss in the lineup ended up paying off with that 9th inning hit over the right field wall.

This homerun kept the Sox in the game, and gave them the ability to win the game. It also happened to be Moss' first career Major League homerun.

In the 6th inning , Moss also made some noise with a two out RBI single to put the Sox in the lead for the first time in the game.

All of Moss' clutch hits show that Francona had good judgment in putting the rookie in the game. He could end up being Francona's go-to guy late in the game when the Sox need a crucial hit based on this performance.

Moss' blast in the 9th inning gave way to a two-run double by Manny Ramirez in the top of the 10th. That hit kept the Sox on top for good.

Opening Day in Japan seemed to be a success for the Sox; I just hope the return to the States doesn't leave them on jet lag for too long. When the Yankees started their season in Japan a few years ago, it took them a little while to recover after returning to the U.S.

However, the bright side to the Sox coming home is that Opening Day at Fenway will be soon to come. Every Sox fan knows what that means: the World Series ring ceremony.

Now that the season has fioally started, let the games begin! Go Sox!



Boston fans cheer during the Major League Baseball regular season opener between the Red Sox and the Oakland Athletics at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Tuesday, March 25, 2008. (Shizuo Kambayashi / AP)

The Voice

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phooe number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your
name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office io Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Sudoku

★★☆☆☆

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	7	6		4		5	1	
	4						8	
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		7				8		
	6	8				1	5	

brainfreezepuzzles.com

Rules: Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3x3 block contains 1-9 exactly once.

Dobelle - Continued from Page 3

McGinnity: What do you think is the biggest different between when you were at community colleges compared to a university?

Dobelle: Well, I've been fortunate. I'm probably the only person in the country in a way that has had leadership experience at every level of education. I've been chairmen of a local school committee k-12, I've been president of a community college, I've been president of a large urban college (San Francisco). I've been president of a small liberal arts college (Trinity), I've been president of a major research university in Hawaii, and president now of a state college. So, they all are terrific because they all have different missions, and they're all quite honestly as important as each other; there's nothing where one is more important than another. And nor should I ever consider any of them more elite or better than another. What we want to do is celebrate who we are at Westfield, which is the oldest co-educational college in America (1838). There are teachers and students in a beautiful residential setting on a nice campus and how can we be the best at what we do in our mission and how do we take a state college, which in relative terms is the strongest academic state college in Massachusetts, and make it a regional if not a national institution. I think that would be great and that's the deal.



Intern with the Governor this Summer

Looking for a great summer internship? The Office of the Governor is hosting approximately 30 internships for college students this summer. Possible placements include the Governor's Appointments, Administration, Civic Engagement, Correspondence, Constituent Services, Legislative, Press, Personnel, Scheduling and Executive Offices in Boston, as well as in the Governor's offices in Springfield and in Washington DC. All internships are unpaid, full time, and 10-12 weeks in length. Full-time students who have completed at least one year of college are eligible to apply, and a personal interview is required as part of the application process. Housing is the responsibility of the intern.

While the specific duties of interns are determined by the office directors, all internships have in common the expectation that interns will cover phones, do filing, mail processing, data entry, and routine office chores, in addition to any specific projects or tasks assigned. Computer skills are necessary; some familiarity with Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook is expected. Previous office experience is strongly preferred.

Towards the end of the internship, there is a regular speaker series, in which senior members of the Governor's staff and Cabinet meet weekly with the Governor's interns. Within the work constraints of each office, interns are also permitted and encouraged to attend legislative sessions, hearings, State House events, and press conferences.

To apply, please mail by **April 14, 2008** a packet containing a cover letter, resume, a two-to three page writing sample, and three original letters of recommendation (at least one from a previous employer) to:

Christina Mills
Civic Engagement Liaison
Office of the Governor
Room 160
State House
Boston, MA 02133
phone: (617) 725-4020
fax: (617) 727-8136
email: christina.mills@state.ma.us

Need help preparing your application materials? Contact Career Services at 572-5706. One of our career counselors would be happy to help you!

WSKB 89.5 FM PRESENTS: Steve Biegner/ Steve MacDonald/ Marie Moreshead

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2008
Time: 7 - 10:30pm
Location: Westfield State College
Scanlon Banquet Hall

This is going to be a really great show. It's only $3 for students and $4 for non-students.

Steve Biegner:
http://www.myspace.com/stevebiegner

Stephen MacDonald:
http://www.myspace.com/stephenmacdonaldmusic

Marie Moreshead:
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Please come support the artists and the college radio station!

Tell all your friends!!

Happy Spring!

Fri 03/28	Showing of Juno 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Showing of P.S. I Love You 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 03/29	Trip to Mt. Snow Meet in Campus Center 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	PS3 Challenge (Bring your games) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	WSKB Band/ Talent Night 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 03/30	Sunday Mass 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Showing of Juno 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Sunday Night Snacks 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Mon 03/31	Alcoholics Anonymous 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Interfaith Center	Body Toning 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Welleness Center	Recreational Swimming 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Wellness Center: Pool
Tues 04/01	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Climate Project Presentation 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Dever Auditorium	Christian Student Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Interfaith Center
Wed 04/02	Class of 2009 Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. SGA Conference Center	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	CAB Coffeeouse 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Thurs 04/03	Sexaul Assault "Day of Action" 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. SGA Conference Room	Alcohol Awareness Program 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII April 11, 2008 Issue XX

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Top 10 signs the government is spying on you

10. You turn on your television and see a live feed of your shower.

9. While you're ordering pizza, a mysterious voice on the phone tells you to forget the mushrooms.

8. There's been an ice cream truck parked outside your house for nine months.

7. Your dog has an antenna.

6. You came home early and found an agent dusting your wife for prints.

5. Your cat has an antenna.

4. After eating a falafel, your name was addded to the "do not fly" list..

3. Drudge Report features exclusive news about your breakfast.

2. CIA director Hayden calls and says, "Judging by these surveillance photos, you should get that thing on your ass looked at."

1. During State of the Union, President suggests you to ask your doctor about Levitra.

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top 10

'Think Green' at Westfield State

JEFF DALE
SPORTS EDITOR

WESTFIELD- On Tuesday, April 1, Westfield State College held it's annual Green Fair titled "Think Green: Campus and Community". The event was held in the Ely main lounge. In attendance were several cutting edge companies that spawned from alternative energy companies such as SolarWrights and innovative cleaning solutions company RoVic.

Despite the event being held on April 1, Westfield State was not fooling around about the environment.

"Westfield has definitely made an initiative to inform people about the environment," said Keith Mitcheltree, sales coordinator for RoVic.

Mitcheltree said his company has all bio-renewable based products. What does bio-renewable mean though? Well, Mitcheltree, said that its means that all of the products ingredients are natural.

"Whether it's a soy based solvent, vegetable derived detergent or cleaning agent made from coconut oil, each ingredient comes from a renewable resource," Mitcheltree said while referring to his literature.

Another company that came to the Ely campus center was the alternative energy resource company SolarWrights whose main focus is on solar and wind power.

Michael Soares, a representative from SolarWrights said that wind power could produce more than 10 percent of a homes electrical power in a year. Soares added that people could really help the environment by using solar power.

"Solar is a more effective power source than wind, because



A furry friend was just one of the attractions at the 'Think Green' fair in Ely last week. Photo by Hugh Meilly

"simply the sun is always going to come up. Wind is not a sure thing."

However, Soares said that one problem with solar energy was that people thought it was very unsightly. Despite this,he said there are solutions to these customer inquiries.

"One way to combat this problem has been in creating solar paneled shingles," Soares said.

Another company that was there was Recycle America, a waste management company. Account Manager for Recycle America, Jensen Kroll, said that a lot of money can be made in this business.

"People don't realize that for a lot of companies going green is actually a very smart business decision," Kroll said.

Recycle America is a company that deals in many things, including landfills and the proper way in producing a landfill.

"The difference between our company and the others is that we do it right," Kroll said.

"When we cap a landfill correctly the gases that rise from that landfill can power a town," Kroll said. "Eventually at the end of that landfills life it could be turned into a soccer field for your kids to play on."

Nacy Reilly, a representative from Goodwill Industries, was yet another person educating people about waste management.

"We take old computers and TV's and recycle them properly, because there are a lot of rare metals inside the computer chips," Rielly said.

On top of all this, outside Ely there was a line up of several Hybrid cars, including the Lexis Hybrid, a Pryis that gets 50 miles to the gallon and the new Smart Cars.

Randi Lucuis, a senior and Communications major who helped plan the event, said she hoped that Westfield continues with the fair after she graduates.

"There is really a lot of good information that people can learn at events like these, and not to mention all the fun that can be had," Lucius said.

The fun Lucius was speaking of was that on top of all the company representatives, there was free food, Segway rides, and basically a petting zoo with alpacas outside Ely for students to enjoy.

"It's great because the school really went all out this year, and this is the way people get informed," Lucius said.

Spring new works reading is a success

MOLLY COYLE
VOICE REPORTER

On Monday, April 7, in the Scanlon Living Room the English department and Persona, the Westfield State Literary Magazine, put on "The Spring New Works Reading." Professor Leah Nielsen kicked off the reading, in her hot pink Converse sneakers, with her poem "Love, I'm Leaving You for Robert Frost." She also noted, before beginning her reading, that no, she was not planning on leaving her husband.

The works that were read included poetry and short stories that fit into five minute time segments. The authors and poets included current students, professors and alumni. Other professors who read included Stephen Adams, Michael Filas, Joyce Hayden and Harry Stessel. Alumni readers included John Fletcher, Lisa Mangini and Julie Oliver. The other 16 readers were students.

"It was a great experience," sophomore student reader Elizabeth Henderson said. "I'll admit, I was required to read for class, but as nerve-wracking as it was, I'm glad I did it."

Check out Senate pictures on Page 3!!



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The Political Science Career Networking Event took place last week in the Garden Conference room in 333.
Photo by Hugh Mailly

The little quirks of Bates 117

ERIN BROSNAHAN
VOICE REPORTER

Dr. Karen LaVoie has been the conductor of the Westfield Sate College Wind Symphony for the last fourteen years. During her time with the Music Department, Dr. LaVoie has seen and experienced many of the changes that the music facilities have gone through. Yet while some things have changed, others have not. Bates 117 is one of the facilities that has for the most part, stayed the same. Today it is well known for its odd quirks, and somewhat unsatisfactory features. Even so, more than six musical groups, along with classes and recital performers, use this room on a daily basis.

Room 117 is just a little larger than your regular classroom at Westfield State College. It is commonly used as a rehearsal spot for musical groups on campus. Due to this, its appearance is infinitely changing throughout the days of the academic week. This change is inevitable with groups including Wind Symphony, Chorus, Jazz Band and others using it. While this room changes on a daily basis, it has also changed over the course of fourteen years as well. Dr. LaVoie reminisced about when "the ceiling was much lower than it is today, and one night, a couple students went into the room and tore the ceiling down". The ceiling now looks mysteriously similar to rows of upside down canoes. This higher ceiling, at least, provides a much more open space for musicians to play their instruments to the best of their ability.

Bates 117 is located on the first floor, above the basement of the building. It's on the far side, and below the music and history department office. As you enter the room, the heavy door squeaks in an obnoxious manner.

Brian Beninati, a flutist and piccolo player in the Wind Symphony, claims that "the horrible squeaking puts my playing to shame!" Trying to sneak into rehearsal late? You're already out of luck. Carrying a cumbersome instrument case as you enter doesn't improve the situation. Then, once you're finally in, the door takes its time in closing.

Inside the room, there is usually a large group of around 50 chairs set out, the order depending on which group used it last. One of the room's most infamous quirks is the beige polls that come down from the ceiling and connect with the floor in the middle of the room. "They're there simply because of structure" says Dr. LaVoie. If they weren't there, the room might not be able to exist at all. These polls are the butt of many running inside jokes with most of the musical groups that rehearse there. During rehearsals Dr. LaVoie always laments about not being able to see the faces of her French horn players, who are often hidden behind them. The Wind Symphony takes up so much space in the room however, that there's no way to avoid them.

Another unique feature about Bates 117 is the half carpeted floor. Upon entering the room, the floor is off white and tiled. Then there's a strip of metal that marks the border of the blue rugged floor. In rehearsals, half of whatever group is there gets the tiled floor, and the other half gets the rug. "It's set up like that because it used to be used as a recital room" explains Dr. LaVoie. During rehearsals the Wind Symphony used to be set up so that most everyone was on the rug, and looking towards the chalkboard. Now, however, everyone looks towards the windows and covers the tiles and the rug. Dr. LaVoie states that "this way, rehearsals are set up more like the concerts will be in Dever Auditorium".

The clock in the room hasn't worked for years and still shows the same time. According to Bates 117, it is and always will be 3:10. This makes it seem as though the room has a mind of its own. So unless you've got a watch with you, there's no way of knowing how much longer you'll be there. Wind Symphony rehearsals could go on forever, as far as that clock's concerned!

The four large windows in the front of the room are the only relief that groups get in the sweltering or freezing weather. Aside from the windows, there's absolutely no type of climate control at all. This is one of the room's features that LaVoie deeply regrets. "The one thing I'd really like to see in that room is climate control" says Dr. LaVoie. Climate, after all, is a very important detail to pay attention to when wooden instruments, as well as others, are involved. This could also be a high risk factor for the percussion equipment that is permanently stored in 117. Dr. LaVoie considers this to be one of the room's major issues as well, because "the students who play those instruments can't get to them at all when the room is constantly being used".

Continued on Page 3

Editor's Desk



It's beautiful days, like today, that I remember why spring is my favorite season. Granted, I don't enjoy the random snow falls or torrential downpours during Senate.

As of today, there are 33 days until graduation. EEEKS!!

While there are many things to be excited about, the college is currently coping with the sudden death of one of its students. Junior biology major, Franco Liquori, passed away on March 30. The Voice staff and I extend our deepest condolences to Franco's friends and family. You are in all of our thoughts and prayers.

R.I.P.

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Going green



Having class when the weather is nice

Bates 117 - Continued from Poge 2

Even with all of these little quirks and laments concerning Bates 117, Dr. LaVoie has admitted that it is an otherwise reasonable place for musical groups to rehearse. The one thing that Dr. LaVoie specifically likes about the room is the fact that there are no built in risers. This is because built in risers change the sound of the music because of their placement. Dever Auditorium, where the Wind Symphony and other groups perform, doesn't have these built in risers either, which makes the sound somewhat similar in both rooms. "This allows the Wind Symphony and other groups the ability to know, at least partially, what they'll sound like in a performance" says Dr. LaVoie.

All in all, Bates 117 has proven to be a reasonable place for musical groups to rehearse. There's nothing too horrific about the room at all. It just has numerous quirks and flaws that the people who use the room must overcome. There have been changes made to the room in the past, and perhaps the future will bring others that will eventually improve the overall quality of the room. In the meantime, Bates 117 will continue to provide the Westfield State College Music department with all it has to offer.

'08 Senate Banquet at Chez Joseph

April 4, 2008 6:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.







French cuisine



JEFF DALE

SPORTS EDITOR

I'm a big guy and, to be honest, I eat a lot, but after being in Paris for a week I'm glad that it's over. If it were any longer I would have been on my way to a triple bypass in no time. With that said though, I still ate a lot while I was there, and not because I wanted to, but because I had to.

You see the French have a saying, "Eat until you explode."

OK I made that up, but with the way their meals are set up it certainly seems that way.

The first attitude towards eating when we got there was that they expected you to eat a three-course meal for lunch and dinner, and if you didn't they got confused.

This was fine for me though; probably not for my large intestine but none the less a fun experience for my taste buds and stomach.

The first night we were in the city, we went to an authentic French restaurant called "Le Bosquet." Going in we were a little apprehensive, not being sure if they spoke English, but with a little "Vous parlez anglais?" ("Do you speak English?" in French) we were in.

When we got the menu I noticed that it was riddled with typos - steak spelled with a ck and the most enjoyable tart spelled fart - but at least they were trying. We started with an appetizer of French onion soup, which was so delicious, especially with French bread to dip on the side. I then had a main course of chicken and fresh herbs, which ended up being chicken and mashed potatoes. The chef must have been tipped off we were American. Colby, the other sports editor, went with the cod and mashed potatoes, which he seemed to enjoy as well, and after we finished we were both stuffed.

Being so full and having already spent well over 50 Euros ($75) we decided to call it a night. When the waitress came over to us to take our plates she asked if we would like some dessert. Colby and I both replied, "No thank you." Big mistake.

You see, the French are very proud of their cuisine and not getting dessert is not taken lightly. Burna Huebner, one of the people who planed out the seminars and was Colby and my "Paris mother" told us why this was a mistake.

"My son, when be went to school in Paris, he had a friend who he brought home for lunch one day. I made him a sandwich and he just sat there not eating. I asked him 'What's wrong? Why are you not eating?' and he said, 'I'm going to need more than a sandwich. I'm used to a five course meal for lunch.' So I went out and bought a steak to make him for lunch," Huebner said.

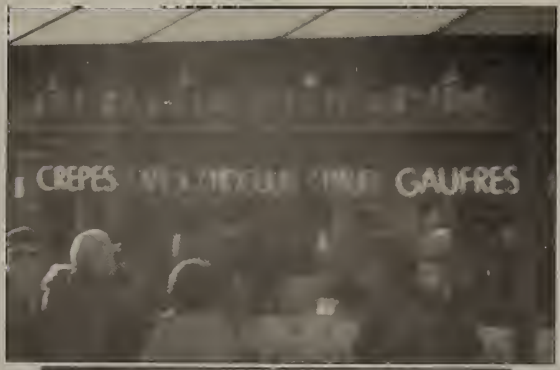
It was apparent that a large meal was the culture of France and therefore not getting dessert was an insult.

"They honestly are offended if you don't get dessert because they think you didn't like your meal. It's even expected for you to get dessert at lunch," Hubener said.

Despite the dessert issue the best part of the food through out the trip was the pastries. Breakfast was the best part of the day by far because literaly every pastry shop was good. The fact that they were on every street corner was great as well because you didn't have to go far to get a great pick-me up.

The most interesting foods I tried while there were "les escargots" (snails) and "foie gras" (goose liver). The snails weren't anything special and getting them out of the shell was more of a hassle than anything. The goose liver was good, but kind of sad when you find out what is done to the poor thing to make it taste like that. I never tried "les cuisses de grenouilles" (frog legs) despite wanting to. I had heard they taste like chicken; maybe next time.

The funniest part of the trip though, as far as food went, was going into a local McDonalds and ordering a Royal with cheese. Yes, "Pulp Fiction" was telling the truth about that one.





Photos courtesy of Colby Henderson

Protestant Chaplain's Column

by: Pastor Bruce

One of my favorite sports is basketball. While I can enjoy watching a good game, my real preference is playing. The game comes alive when I'm out on the floor with team mates and we are working together.

While it isn't a good correlation, I'd like to suggest that faith (in my case following Jesus and being a member of a church) is much like basketball. It can be watched from the sidelines or it can be played. You and I both know a lot of people who choose to watch rather than participate. Watchers do a lot of analyzing of those church people. Been there, done that.

I have found regular participation in a faith community brings more joy and a lot more meaning into life. Faith comes alive when we mix it up with that faith community.

While I love basketball, I practically never play. I've got a pile of excuses. I don't have the time. I'm overweight/out of shape. I'm no youngster. I don't have a group with which to play. I'm not sure where to go to get together with the "right" group. I'm not sure I'll be accepted.

Frankly some of them are pretty decent excuses, but the fact remains, every one of them is surmountable.

I hear people talking about wanting a deeper faith and a closer relationship with God. I will often then suggest coming to a service at my church, participating in a church activity, or even helping them to find another faith community that might be a better fit. Then the excuses start to come. I hear a lot of excuses. Some of them even sound pretty good. Almost every excuse is surmountable.

If you ever watch me play basketball, you will quickly discover that I'm one of those people that you want on the other team. I'm simply not good. I can't dribble with my left hand. My right handed dribbling isn't a whole lot better. You can give me a free shot from almost any place on the floor, and it would be a good defensive strategy. I'm shortish and don't have good jumping ability. Because I'm out of shape, I quickly get winded. My skills: I pass well, play a reasonable game of defense, don't loose my temper, I try, I love being a part of a play that leads to a team mate doing well, and I know my limitations.

I know that for most I'm an undesirable player. However, over the years I have found groups that don't care about my lack of skills. They invite me on the floor and include me in the game.

As I translate this to faith. What is important isn't skill but getting out and participating and doing one's best. While I hate to admit it, not every faith community is good at including those who are just beginning to walk to the walk or who may struggle. But there are communities which are good places. Look around. While not a good analogy, when you buy a new outfit, you look around and even try on a few before making a final selection.

As you develop your skills in faith, maintain a positive attitude, push yourself, but also don't try to be something you are not.

My greatest pleasure in basketball is being a part of a team that plays together. It is about the whole, not the individual.

This is also true of being a person of faith.

When I play with a team, the best games aren't when we are keeping score but when we are simply playing our best—win or lose. It is the playing together that counts and the combination of individuals doing their best together as a team.

Again, this is true of being a person of faith.

I encourage you to find a faith community and become a part.

If you would like to talk further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Ave. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Ave. (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred email is BSchoup@hotmail.com.

Danity Kane delivers strong sophomore effort

James Dinh
A&E Columnist

I'll admit it. I wasn't even sure if they would make it to a sophomore album. Sure, they scored a platinum certified debut album, a Top 10 hit, and opened a nation wide tour with a little performer by the name of Christina Aguilera but that didn't necessarily equal longevity. So when Danity Kane, the winners of MTV's Making the Band 3, released their second album, "Welcome to the Dollhouse", I was pleasantly surprised to hear it topped the Billboard 200 album chart. For Aubrey, Aundrea, Dawn, Shannon, and D. Woods, the release has made them the first female group in Billboard chart history to have both their debut and sophomore album enter the main album chart at #1.

On the disk's first single, "Damaged", the ladies reflect on their past and try to move on to their future as they confess how hurt they've been. The Stereotypes-produced track doesn't break new grounds by any means but it is a safe first single. Taking lead for a change, Shannon starts off the track in exact syncopation with the bass adorned beat as harmonizing kicks in followed by the catchy chorus on this dance number.

Producer, Danja, (Britney's "Gimme More"/ DJ Khaled's "We Takin' Over") contributes to three tracks on Dollhouse. "Pretty Boy" is quirky, schizophrenic, and full energy but with a beat that sounds like two separate songs fused together, the song comes off as rather busy. Rumored second single, "Bad Girl", is a frenetic ode to girls gone, well ... bad. With a less than notable guest rap from Missy Elliot, the song starts off with a back track that you'd only hear on a cell phone dealing with some bad frequency. His third contribution, "Striptease", is full out ear candy which features writing contributions from all fives ladies. The ladies entice and purr their way through the take your clothes off romp jam. On the sex-induced number, they sing very tongue and cheek. "It's so erotic/ here goes I got a pocket full of candy with your favorite flavors/ you can have it now or later" tease Dawn and Aundrea in the pre-chorus.

Halfway through the disk, you might figure out that "the Dollhouse" may be some type of connotation for a house party. But there are a few seldom moments when Danity Kane slow things down; unfortunately the best of the slow jams only come in terms of several interludes scattered throughout the album. "Secret Place" and "Flashback" showcase the girl soulful vocals soaring over rich melodies. The fact that these last a little more than a minute long is a sheer disappointment. And aside from the mellow dramatic ballad, "Poetry", is the mid tempo airy light, "Is Anybody Listening." The song provides some tip top production from Mario Winans and of course Diddy. The track strips down the ladies' voices to display each ones variation during the verses only to compile them with layer after layer on the chorus. Gone with the bells and whistles, the song's simplicity demonstrates its best attribute where the ladies ponder who's there for them to fall back on.

"Sucka 4 Love" has that European-based dance pop resonance, which was produced by Bryan Michael Cox, who helped the girls on their debut album as well. With a strong, matching baseline, the ladies proclaim in the chorus that "if you're addicted to kissing and hugging/ touching and rubbing/ you're a sucka for love."

The disk's other guest appearance comes from Rick Ross, whose appearance is rather irrelevant, on the gritty "Ecstasy". On the Hip Hop doused track, the girls compare their longing for their love with the very E. Great harmonizing, excellent production, and a unique lyrical arrangement display the track's highlights. "Lights Out," with a writing contribution by Dawn, is a chilled out steady paced offering of an Outkast reminiscent track while "2 of You" is a feisty track with matching syncopated claps and of course a silly little rap-like verse from the ever illuminating Aubrey.

"Welcome to the Dollhouse" delivers as a cohesive collection of dance pop club bangers. It doesn't necessarily break any musical barriers although it does showcase growth compared to their debut. But for the group that had plenty of "bitchassness" over control and content over their album, they still lack some real depth in their records. It's polished, innovatively produced, yet fails to dig deep. Nonetheless, Danity Kane is heading in the right direction by providing a solid and contemporary sophomore effort that should leave their career anything but "damaged".

The Movie Channel Schedule

Channel 80 / 81

April 11: Beowulf / Big Fish
April 12: Beowulf / Big Fish
April 13: Assassination of Jesse James / An Inconvenient Truth
April 14: American Gangster / Bee Movie
April 15: Beowulf / Big Fish
April 16: Assassination of Jesse James / Into the Wild
April 17: American Gangster / An Inconvenient Truth
April 18: Field of Dreams / Bee Movie
April 19: Field of Dreams / Bee Movie
April 20: Beowulf / Big Fish
April 21: Assassination of Jesse James / An Inconvenient Truth
April 22: American Gangster / Bee Movie
April 23: Field of Dreams / Into the Wild
April 24: Beowulf / Big Fish
April 25: Assassination of Jesse James / An Inconvenient Truth
April 26: Assassination of Jesse James / An Inconvenient Truth
April 27: American Gangster / Big Fish
April 28: Beowulf / Into the Wild
April 29: Field of Dreams / Bee Movie
April 30: Assassination of Jesse James / An Inconvenient Truth

Movie review: "21"

Jim Emerson
Chicago Sun-Times

If the thrill of gambling were really about winning, there would be too few gamblers to support the multibillion-dollar Vegas gambling industry. Everybody knows that the odds are predetermined to favor the house, and that people play the games for the rush, not the payoff. Bettors are many, winners are few. That's what makes it a reliably profitable business. Like insurance. The premiums for participating in the game outweigh the payouts the company makes as incentives to keep the players playing.

So how exciting would it be if, say, somebody devised a system that used simple math to give a blackjack player the edge over the dealer? "Inspired by" the real-life story of the M.I.T. students who took Las Vegas casinos for millions, "21" has been reshaped to fit a simple movie template -- and it's nearly as much fun as watching an insurance professional compute actuarial tables.

In "21," directed by Robert Luketic, the worst thing a gamester can be accused of is gambling. "Don't give in to your emotions," M.I.T. professor Micky Rosa tells his blackjack students. "Play the system." Good advice for a card-counting scheme. Bad advice for a movie. If you want to see how a formatted screenplay looks when it's actually on the screen (you can just about count the page numbers as they flip by, and maybe measure the margins, too), "21" may provide a practical lesson: How to follow all the "rules" and end up with zero. It's not unwatchable, but you could watch it with your eyeballs tied behind your back and enjoy it just as much.

Here's another example of a good story turned into a purely generic one -- no doubt with the aid of a Bob McKee screenwriting seminar and textbook.

Act I: M.I.T. undergrad Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess) is a nerdish wicked-smart Bostonian white guy working with his best friends (a fat guy and a Persian-American guy) on a project for a robotics competition. He really needs a $300,000 scholarship to get into Harvard medical school, but he's only one of 72 talented prospects. He's recruited by Professor Rosa (Kevin Spacey) to join a secret cabal of card-counters with a scheme to hit Vegas on weekends and make a fortune. He resists. A Beautiful Girl (Kate Bosworth) attempts to woo him. He resists. OK, he really needs the money, so he joins up -- but just until he can get enough for full college tuition.

He learns the blackjack system in a montage sequence or two and passes the test. The Beautiful Girl rebuffs his advances in an attempt to maintain a strictly professional relationship.

Act II: The team goes to Vegas and the guys win. Another montage sequence? Maybe. It's getting a little fuzzy. But wait: A casino security guy named Cole Williams (Laurence Fishburne) starts to notice something -- and not a moment too soon because he's losing all his business to high-tech biometric face-recognition software. Technology! Drat! Card-counting isn't illegal, but the casinos want you to know that if you're caught doing it, they might take you down in the basement and beat the living craps out of you.

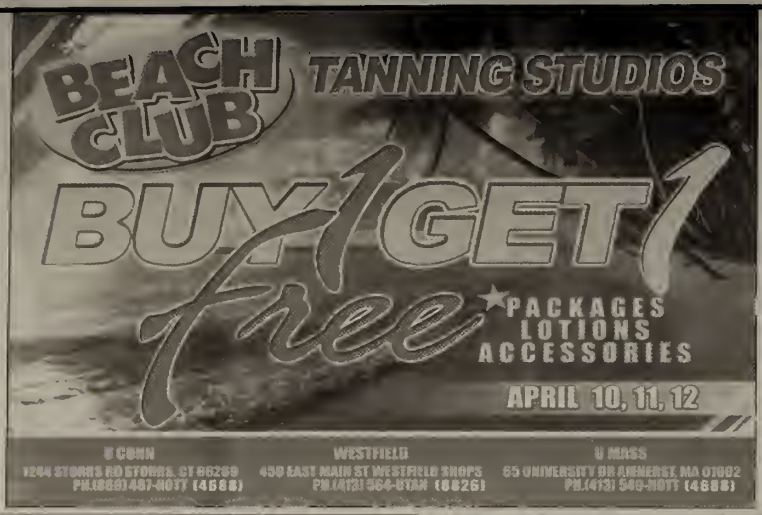
The Beautiful Girl retracts her rebuff. The Hard Rock Casino comps her a suite in which she and Ben enjoy a brief, soft-focus sex-scene montage. "It seemed too good to be true," Ben says in voiceover. "And it felt like it was never going to end." It does. Ben is no longer the same guy he was back in Boston. He loses -- money, his friends, the Beautiful Girl, his mentor, everything. Bummer.

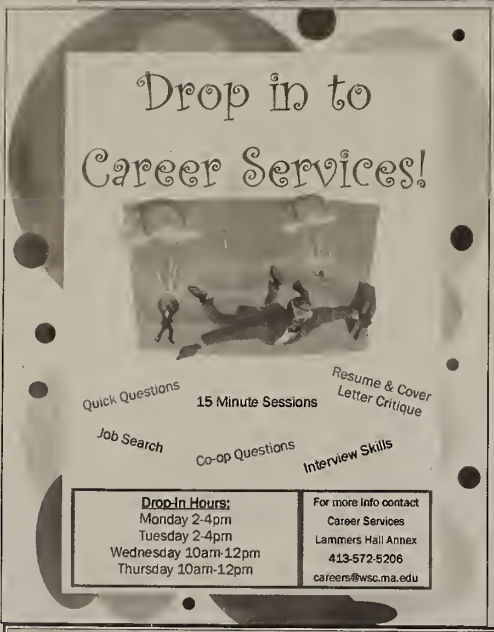
Act III: Ben has one last chance. He makes up with Rosa and the Girl, and the team reunites for one last Big Score in Vegas. Everything works out exactly as the screenwriters have planned. The End.

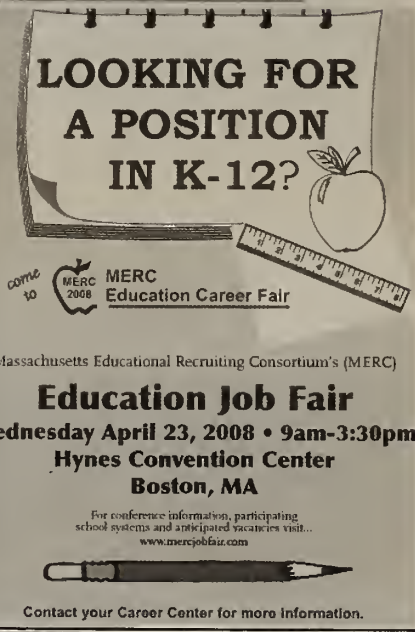
Meanwhile, British actor Sturgess ("The Other Boleyn Girl") gets to play an American with traces of a peculiar accent (based on Jeff Ma, a Chinese-American who was called Kevin Lewis in the book); Spacey gets to alternate his slick good-cop schtick ("L.A. Confidential") with his steely bad-cop schtick ("Swimming With Sharks"); Luketic ("Legally Blonde," "Monster-in-Law") gets to direct another picture, and Bosworth gets to wear some wigs.

The movie itself has a tell: Watch for the moment when somebody obviously pulls a punch. If you hadn't figured out the rest of the movie by then, it gives away the whole thing.

Roger Ebert gives it 1 and 1/2 stars/







The Voice

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Corporation Dodgeball completes undefeated season

Zach Farley
Sports Reporter

WESTFIELD -- History was made on Wednesday night when the Corporation completed the first ever undefeated dodgeball season in the history of Westfield State College (19-0.)

After completing an undefeated regular season, the Corporation made the playoff bracket seem like a mere formality as they earned the right to celebrate their second straight championship.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Corporation defeated the play-in game winner easily. Moving on to the second round the Corporation beat 2 thru 7 in a quick match 4-1.

With reigning league MVP Ed Annino, and the off-season additions of Marcus Henry, Zach Farley, and Noah Wade the Corporation was expected to repeat as champions.

"We saw the Patriots and how they were able to win during their run this year, but when they choked we knew we could learn from their mistakes and become the first and only true dodgeball dynasty in Westfield history." said hard throwing senior Steve Gibbons.

The Corporation stressed good fundamentals and ball control during the season. They were able to put numerous line-ups on the court and win regardless of who could show up to the game.

"Their was a clear consensus among dodgeball fans that this was going to be the team to beat all year, but nobody thought that they would be this good." said junior Rob Wayne. "I was really "jonesing" to see them win it all."



The Corporation. Photo courtesy of Zoch Forley

In the semi-finals the Corporation played the Brew Crew who had a solid record and some hard throwing talent.

The Corporation went up early and finished them off 4-2.

"We were able to key in on their one or two good players and take them out of their game." said senior Jared Walsh who made big catches all year.

In the finals, the Corporation was hoping to meet the second seeded Ballz Deep who had given them their hardest game during the regular season, but they were shockingly upset by the A-Team in the second round.

"We knew the A-Team would come into the finals hot but we remained focused and took care of business." said senior Pete Rizzo.

The Corporation was able to complete the perfect season with a 4-1 victory in the finals and bring home its second straight crown.

"All year everyone thought we were a little bit too cocky, whether it was bringing sparkling cider on ice to the final four games, flexing mid game, or challenging other players to throwoffs, that was all just a way to bother other team while we stayed focused and played our game which was winning dodgeball championships." said Corporation superstar Ed Annino. "That T-shirt is going to feel extra soft knowing it's a 19-0 shirt."

Upcoming Home Games

Baseball (10-6)
Saturday, 4-12: vs.Worcester State @12:00noon
Tuesday, 4-15: vs. MCLA @ 3:00 p.m.

Softball (12-3)
Saturday, 4-12: vs.Worcester State @12:00noon
Tuesday, 4-15: vs. MCLA @ 2:00 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse (3-5)
Thursday, 4-17: vs. Elms College @ 7:00 p.m.

Records and Statistics as of April 7

Statistical Leaders

Baseball Batting Average



Kevin Lyons
.391

Softball Batting Average



Allison Allen
.545

Lacrosse Leading Goal Scorer



Ally Brown
27 Goals

Red Sox pitching woes

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Columnist

As each Red Sox fan knew before Opening Day in Japan, Curt Schilling would be out of the rotation until at least the All-Star Break. Given Schilling's reputation as one of the best pitchers in the game, this was a significant blow to the Red Sox. Now, just as the season is starting, the Red Sox have developed a few more pitching woes.

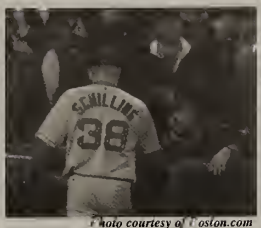


Photo courtesy of Boston.com

Before the trip to Japan for Opening Day, Josh Beckett was scratched from being the Opening Day starter because of back tightness. This back tightness caused him to go on the 15-day disabled list on March 19.

As if losing two starting pitchers during Spring Training wasn't enough, relief pitcher Mike Timlin also got hurt and was put on the 15-day disabled list. Timlin is listed as having a laceration on a finger on his right hand.

As long as things go well for the Sox and luck is on their side, Beckett and Timlin should return soon to try to help the Red Sox capture yet another World Series title. If everything goes well they should come back strong and ready to go.

On a brighter note, the Red Sox have signed another Japanese reliever, Terumasa Matsuo. He has been pitching in Japan for a few years, and the Red Sox have high hopes that he can help the bullpen.

Along with that, the Red Sox have been working with Clay Buchholz to strengthen his pitches and give him a bit of variety as well. Throughout Spring Training he has been working on making adjustments to his pitching, and hopefully those adjustments will help him grow as a pitcher. Only time will tell.

One thing that Red Sox fans know about their team is that even in injury, the Sox don't lose faith. They have had injury after injury thrown at them in the past and they have continued to work past it and put out the best team possible, and that is what I expect them to do with these pitching injuries.



Mario Chalmers sends the National Championship into overtime. Photo courtesy of CNNSI.com

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Memphis kept missing. Mario Chalmers wasn't about to.

Chalmers' 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left in regulation put the game in overtime, and Kansas pulled away to a 75-68 victory on Monday night for its first national championship since Danny and the Miracles 20 years ago.

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- Specialists

Listings updated weekly under EDUCATION JOB SITE link.

WSC-TV Club introduces the newly updated channel for Westfield State College!!

Channel 99 is the new channel to be updated on campus activities and issues, as well as to see some familiar Westfield faces!!

Fri 04/11	Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	WSC Field Hockey 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Alumni Field	Senior Night 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dining Commons
Sat 04/12	WSC Softball/Baseball vs. Worcester 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Alumni Baseball Field	Intramurals 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	WSKB Band/Talent Night 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sun 04/13	Floor Hockey Intramurals 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Softball Intramurals 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Alumni Field	Movie: Charlie Wilson's War 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge
Mon 04/14	Floor Hockey Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	WSC Field Hockey 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Alumni Field	Softball Intramurals 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Alumni Field
Tues 04/15	Floor Hockey Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	WSC Softball/Baseball vs. MCLA 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Alumni Baseball Field	Softball Intramurals 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Alumni Field
Wed 04/16	American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parenzo Gym	Softball Intramurals 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Alumni Field	Floor Hockey Intramurals 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym
Thurs 04/17	Floor Hockey Intramurals 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym	Men's Lacrosse vs. WNEC 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Softball Intramurals 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Alumni Field

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII April 18, 2008 Issue XXI

Small fire forces evacuation of the Dining Commons

Eryn Carter & Molly Coyle
Voice Reporters

On Tuesday, April 8, at approximately 5:30 p.m., a small grease fire broke out in the Dining Commons at Westfield State College. All students and staff were safely evacuated. The Westfield Fire Department responded and the fire was extinguished quickly.

Large pillows of white smoke could be seen from over the tops of Scanlon Hall and several other buildings on campus as the fire was extinguished. Some students reported seeing the flames after they emerged from the Dining Commons and said they were shooting as high as 8-feet into the air.

"Seeing the smoke gave an overwhelming feeling of impending doom," said sophomore Travis Gawron. "The smoke in general gave me a really bad feeling in the pit of my stomach and the faces of the DC workers were devastating."

Stunned, students didn't move when the alarm started sounding but eventually the DC workers came out from the kitchen and motioned for students to go outside.

Some students, unphased, brought their trays with them and proceeded to eat on the green.

One of the outdoor eaters, freshman Kait Calderara said, "It was surprising that there actually was a fire. No one was moving until the DC workers started ushering people out of the building. So we took our trays outside and had a picnic."

The DC was closed down for the rest of the evening to be inspected and cleaned due to the damage done. Students were invited to Subway, Jazzman's, Quixote's and the Grill for a free meal. Student Affairs also ordered pizza which was brought into the Scanlon Living Room and all were invited.

The cash operations and pizza were available to students through 9 p.m.

One student was overheard saying that the fire started where one of the cooks was cooking burgers on the grill.

"The flame just got really big and the next thing we knew the grill was on fire."

Students also reported it being very smoky inside.

Justin Sheehan, a junior, was outside playing frisbee at the time of the fire.

He said, "Well I was playing Frisbee and my friend Nick said, 'Hey, look, the DC is burning down.' So I stopped playing and saw 6- to 10-foot flames, maybe they were a bit smaller, coming out of the smoke stack. Then everyone just poured out of the DC and black smoke came out and it just smelled funny."

Students that had meal plans were not the only ones who take advantage of the free meals. Apartment residents and those who do not have a meal plan also made the trek to the various cash operations to partake in a free meal. This was put in place mainly for those who were unable to eat at the DC that evening.

"People were coming in with big black trash bags and filling them with food and drinks," said sophomore Kristin Dooley. "After a while, cops came. It was just ridiculous. The lines were out the door."

The Dining Commons received a good inspection and was reopened Wednesday morning for breakfast with very little residual left over.



Photo courtesy of Derek Strahan

Top 10 signs your monkey is too fat

10. Tried to swing from a vine and brought down the entire tree

9. Only eats bananas smothered in nacho cheese and butter

8. When wearing a baseball cap, is often mistaken for Michael Moore

7. He knows 26 words, all of which are Baskin Robins flavors

6. Last Halloween, put on a pair of earrings and went as Kirstie Alley

5. Kids keep yelling, "There's a hippo in the monkey house!"

4. Can no longer get around to solve crimes with his obsessive-compulsive behavior -- Sorry, that's a sign "Monk" is too fat.

3. At department stores, has to shop in the Husky Monkey section

2. He's used as the "Before" picture in all those monkey diet pill ads

1. Bill Clinton just hit that

Courtesy of David Letterman's Top Ten



Photo courtesy of Hugh Mailly

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Spring Flowers



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Fourteen Westfield State students unite with sponges, buckets and passion to end hunger and homelessness

24th Annual Hunger Cleanup mobilizes 8,000 students nationally, will raise $100,000 to support local, national and international hunger relief

As most Pioneer Valley residents woke up to begin their weekend routine, fourteen Westfield State student volunteers grabbed rubber gloves, sponges, and buckets as part of the 23rd Annual Hunger Cleanup, a one-day community service work-a-thon focused on raising awareness, volunteer support, and funds for local, national, and international hunger relief programs.

While students across the natioin piled into buses and cars to volunteer at hunger relief agencies, Wesetfield State students spent their Saturday giving the Westfield Soup Kitchen a spring cleaning.

Organized by MassPIRG, the event drew volunteers from the Third World Organization as well as Circle K. The day of service is part of the national Annual Hunger Cleanup that will involve more than 8,000 students from 100 colleges and high schools nationwide who will volunteer in an effort to fight hunger and homelessness.

"It was great to see so many students come out to lend a helping hand," said Mark Cabral, Westfield State's MassPIRG treasurer and Hunger Cleanup Coordinator.

The Annual Hunger Cleanup, a project of the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, is a unique event that combines community service and fundraising. Similar to a walk-a-thon, the Cleanup mobilizes thousands of students nationwide who gather hourly pledges from family and friends for their volunteer work in local shelters and community kitchens. Since its inception twenty-one years ago, the Cleanup has mobilized more than 150,000 volunteers who have raised over $1.75 million for hunger and homelessness relief organizations.

Fundraising increases the impact of the Cleanup by helping agencies in need. Here at Westfield, MassPIRG, The Third World Organization, Lambda Pi and Circle K were able to raise over $650.00. Fifty percent of these funds will be donated to the Westfield Soup Kitchen that will use the the donation to help purchase new refrigerators and freezers. Festina Julue, a volunteer from The Third World Organizatioin stated that "Its really nice to get involved with the local community – its great to know that our efforts actually make a difference." In addition, 35 percent of the funds raised will support the National Student Campaign, and 15 percent will support humanitarian aide in Darfur, Sudan and the Girl Child Network in Zimbabwe that offers educational and legal services to young girls. It is through this work that students have been able to have both an immediate and long-term impact on these problems that are plaguing our world.

Started by Michigan students more than twenty years ago, the Hunger Cleanup has grown to be one of the largest student-run, community service fundraising events in the country.

Stacey Hafner, Director of the National Student Campaign, says, "As the cost of living continues to increase dramatically every year, more families are struggling to make ends meet. While the Hunger Cleanup won't eradicate hunger or homelessness in America, it will go a long way in assisting many individuals and vital community agencies."

If you are interested in getting involved locally with the Westfield Soup Kitchen, please contact Mike Primeau at mprimeau1070@wsc.ma.edu.

On the economy, 70 percent disapprove of Bush

JON COHEN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Public disapproval of the way President Bush is handling the nation's economy has hit a new high in Washington Post-ABC News polling, and his overall favorability rating remains near an all-time low.

Seven in 10 Americans now give negative ratings to the president's stewardship of the sinking U.S. economy. Only 28 percent approve of his performance in this area, a double-digit decline from a year ago, and even core Republicans have begun to abandon the president on the issue.

Among Republicans, 59 percent approve of the way he is handling the economy, down from 70 percent at the beginning of February and well off his career average of about 80 percent from his party's base. Only a quarter of independents and 6 percent of Democrats approve of Bush's performance on the economy.

Republicans have been more steadfast in their overall support for Bush and in their assessments of his handling of the situation in Iraq, with about three-quarters approving of Bush's job performance generally and 68 percent backing him on his war policies.

But most Democrats and independents remain equally settled in their low opinion of the president's performance. Bush's overall rating stands at 33 percent, a percentage point above his all-time low in Post-ABC polling, a level he touched on most recently about six weeks ago. Among Democrats, "strong" disapproval has reached 80 percent for the first time.

It has been more than three years since a majority of Americans approved of how Bush has handled his job, making his streak of low ratings about equal to Harry S. Truman's in Gallup polls from late 1949 through the end of his presidency.

Souring views of the war in Iraq were the primary drag on Bush's ratings — just as public approval of Truman slipped during each year of the Korean conflict — but a malaise about the nation's economy is now also weighing on him. The last time a majority expressed positive views of Bush's handling of the economy was in January 2004; that was also the last time more people approved than disapproved of his management of the war in Iraq.

The poll was conducted by telephone April 10 to 13 among a random national sample of 1,197 adults. The results have a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Polling analyst Jennifer Agiesta contributed to this report.

Editor's Desk



Well, this is it for me. My last issue of my college career. I don't know where the time has gone. I still remember hearing the news from last year's editor that I was to take over this year. I remember recruiting staff before spring semester was even over...and now the sports editors, Jeff and Colby, will be taking MY place as editor.

By far, this has been my favorite and most memorable year of college. I will never forget the amazing people I've met and befriended here. The crazy, hilarious, sad and upsetting times all had an equal part in shaping who I am and the person who will be entering the real world in about four weeks. To everyone who has had an impact on me, and you know who you are, I thank you.

And lastly, I want to thank my amazing staff and newspaper advisors for helping me put each issue together, and helping me sustain some level of sanity along the way.

It's been quite a ride, but now it's time for me to say goodbye! Good luck to everyone and remember to have fun :)

P.S. The last issue of the semester will be coming out May 2, and will be put together by the new editors, Jeff and Colby!!!

Molly Pappas
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Spring Weekend



End of the semester work overload

"Communication Conflict and Search for Peace" lecture series offered by Comm. Department

Why do we have wars and conflict, and how do we seek peace? This is the overriding question addressed in a three-part series of events sponsored by the Communication Department at Westfield State College this month.

The first program in the "Communication, Conflict, and the Search for Peace" series is April 17, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Garden Conference Rooms AB of the Westfield State College administrative building at 333 Western Ave., Westfield. It features three speakers who have worked in or reported on areas of conflict around the world. They are all currently pursuing graduate studies at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT.

Varghese Chakkummootil Oommen, a scholar in Christian theology and Islamic studies, has worked for the past five years to facilitate communication between rival groups in the war-torn region of Kashmir in India. His talk is entitled, "Is Peace Possible in Kashmir?"

Shiri Barr is an Israeli peace activist who has worked in that conflict-torn region to facilitate dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. Her talk is: "Can you hear what I'm saying? Grassroots dialogue in the Israel-Palestine conflict."

Kimberlye Kowalczyk has been a journalist for Transcend and Kyoto Journal in Japan, Women's Feature Service in India, and aboard the international Peace Boat. She will talk about "Peace Journalism" and how it differs from mainstream journalism.

The second program is on April 23 in the Scanlon Banquet Hall at Westfield State, from 4 to 6 p.m., and features the Westfield premiere screening of the critically acclaimed documentary, "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits are Spinning us to Death." The film is based on a book by Norman Solomon by the same title and features Solomon tracing the persuasive techniques that are employed to engender popular support for war. Solomon is the founder and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a national consortium of policy researchers and analysts. Solomon has appeared on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and CSPAN's Washington Journal and Book TV, and has been a guest on various National Public Radio programs. His latest book is, Target Iraq: What the News Media Didn't Tell You. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the film's producer, Loretta Alper and associate producer Jason Young, a Westfield State College graduate. Alper is executive producer at the Media Education Foundation in Northampton, the nation's leading producer and distributor of educational films on the media.

The third and final program in the series is "Perspectives on Rwanda: Understanding the Genocide." The event is on April 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall at Westfield State College.

The discussion on Rwanda offers a unique opportunity to hear leading members of the Hutu and Tutsi groups discuss the genocidal wars that cost more than 800,000 lives in the 1990s, according to series organizer Tom Gardner of the Communication Department faculty.

Joseph Sebarenzi, former speaker of the Parliament in Rwanda and a Tutsi, was safely out of the country with his family in 1994, when Hutu extremists slaughtered more than 800,000 Tutsis. But many of Sebarenzi's extended family were not so lucky. Returning to Rwanda, Sebarenzi rose through the ranks of Parliament, eventually becoming Speaker, third in power only to the country's president. As the leader of parliament, Sebarenzi worked to improve good governance, speaking out for the independence of the legislature and against corruption in the government. Forced to resign, and informed of a plot by Tutsi extremists to assassinate him, he fled Rwanda and found exile in the United States. He still champions a broad process of restorative justice in Rwanda as the country struggles with the ongoing effects of mass genocide and retaliatory killing among its Hutu and Tutsi people. He is currently a lecturer on conflict resolution at the School for International Training, and he lectures widely across the U.S. and Canada.

Professor Jean-Marie Higiro, a Hutu, was former director of the Rwandan Information Office (ORINFOR). ORINFOR is a public agency that manages Radio-Rwanda, Rwandan Television, the Rwandan Press Agency and two weekly government newspapers under the oversight of the Ministry of Information. A scholar in the area of western media coverage of Africa and a former leader in the development of Rwandan communication policies, Professor Higiro's most recent publication is "Rwandan Private Media on the Eve of the Genocide" in a 2007 book, The Media and Rwanda, (ed. Allan Thompson, Pluto Press). Forced to leave Rwanda because of his opposition to the genocide and his refusal to allow the media under his direction to be used to justify the killings, Higiro is on the faculty of Western New England College and is adjunct professor in the Communication Department at Westfield State College.

This spring's series is the 9th in the Communication Department's "Communication and Conflict" lecture series. All events are free and open to the public. For Westfield State students, Passport Points are available for all events.

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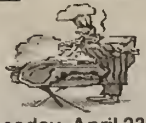
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Graduate students to present research at Westfield State

More than 70 graduate students from Massachusetts public state colleges will present their research at the 2008 Graduate Research Symposium at Westfield State College on April 18.

The subjects of the graduate students' panels, which will be held in a number of locations in Scanlon Hall, are varied. One panel will present research on the methods terrorist organizations use to develop their ideology, recruit, organize, and fund themselves as well as how they interact with the media.

Other sessions will include topics as varied as literacy strategies for preschool classrooms, education of autistic children, the editing of Victorian novels, DSS placements, and civil aviation in China.

Robert Brown, professor emeritus of history at Westfield State, will deliver the plenary address. Brown, known for his work on the history of Westfield and the Edwin Smith Historical Museum at the Westfield Athenaeum, will discuss the importance of research at the community level.

The symposium is free and open to the public. It will begin at 9 a.m. and continue through mid-afternoon. A complete schedule may be found on the Westfield State web site at www.wsc.ma.edu.

Missed connections:

I am a WSC student, you were Westfield State campus email

Dan Sullivan
Casual Observer

It's time Cheryl. It is time that we parted ways.

I have to block you.

Cheryl, we've had a good run these last four years. You and I, we've traded some great (albeit one-way) correspondence—the minutiae of the campus shuttle system, the preservative-laden yet eerily delectable chicken patties you guys were always cooking over at the DC; the philosophical conundrums that accompany a high-stakes game of brown bag bingo (oh, just the suspense of knowing what those prizes might be is nearly uncontrollable!).

But Cheryl, we'll always have the memories. Remember that time that unfortunate freshman [illegible] keys while stumbling drunk back from [illegible] that we might've [illegible] Tracy's soul of slammed th[illegible] I hadn't seen her boys anywhere) but it really brought a bright, dimply smile to my face, and an ever-so-gracefully placed tap on the delete button. And of course, we'll always have those friendly reminders we shared about not using the fire escapes in the old apartments. I mean, I can't say I ever really abided by that rule—when you've gotta smoke, you've gotta smoke; you understand—but still, just knowing you were there to keep the hooligans in line with your electronic dissemination somehow helped me sleep a little better through those cold, cold nights.

But then things went south. First you told me that my mailbox was full. I couldn't believe it. I'd been so diligent in making sure to regularly delete all of those offhand 20 to 25 emails you'd send me per day. How could my box be full, thereby preventing me from receiving what might be an actual email from a professor regarding a class I might need to be, want or

Turns out you were [illegible] able to let go. You had dependency issues, and you hid all of our correspondence down in my "deleted items" folder, where none of the items I had deleted had ever actually been deleted. There in that folder were all of our four years of campus events I never attended, family nights I never participated in and midnight pancake breakfasts that I did in fact enjoy, but found out about through other, more practical means—you know, like my friends or RA's or so on and so forth.

And so, though it hurts me deeply to say it, Cheryl, I think it's time for this train ride to end. It was fun while it lasted, but you just couldn't cope. You were smothering me, Cheryl, with your constant emails and relentless offering and on-campus promotion.

So, I now have to block you from my email list. I'm sorry that I must make such a blunt move, but I simply cannot think of any other way. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. I'm sure you'll find someone. So long.

Protestant Chaplain's Column

by: Pastor Bruce

I know what I write is not the normal article for a college paper. I write to share about some incidents that recently took place involving children and adults in my parish. Such incidents take place every day in churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship.

Bobby loves Vicki.

Don't worry. Bobby is three and Vicki, well let's just say that her youngest is graduating from college.

The only time Bobby ever sees Vicki is when Bobby comes to church. Vicki is her nursery room attendant.

When Bobby sees me (I'm her pastor) outside of church, she always asks, "How is Miss Vicki?"

Recently I had the good pleasure of visiting with Bobby in the hospital.

Again, don't worry. Bobby was doing exactly what I was doing, visiting her new baby brother. Bobby was very proud of her brother and showed me how she could hold him. Of course she asked me about Miss Vicki and wanted to make sure that Miss Vicki knew about her brother. Bobby wanted to take her brother right away to see Miss Vicki, but then agreed that maybe it would be best if she only took pictures.

I share this story because I think it is awesome. A three-year-old loves to come to church to see her friend who she sees only on Sundays. I think it is incredible that a mature woman sees it as one of the highlights of her week to be able to come to church and spend time with one-, two- and three-year-olds and make them feel loved.

God is at work not in the big things, but in the small things.

Thomas, 8, loves to plink around on the piano. He has never taken lessons and would probably find it cruel and unusual punishment if he was forced to take them.

After church, he likes to sneak onto the piano at church and plink away. Invariably he asks me if he can perform.

On Sunday, prior to worship as people were gathering, we had a musician playing. I went up to Jim and asked him if he would mind if Thomas took five minutes of his time and played.

Without any hesitation Jim picked up the microphone, announced Thomas and turned the stage over to him.

People looked up, smiled and listened.

This is also an awesome story. An 8-year-old feels comfortable enough to ask for the congregation to listen and then feels comfortable enough to play in front of them. It is amazing that with no hesitation an adult shares his stage and his time with a child. Finally, there was that general sense of pleasure that came from the congregation.

Fred is retired and in his 70's. For most of his life he has been paralyzed from the waist down and is wheelchair bound. Now he zips in on an electric wheel chair.

Following worship Fred likes to go to coffee hour.

Invariably, I will see Fred come flying through the sanctuary with Sam, 9, sitting on the cart with him and running the controls.

Sam looks for Fred, and truth to tell, I think Fred looks for Sam. Both of them share an exciting moment together.

Houses of worship are indeed places where people come together and experience Christ in one another.

Today I attended the dedication of the Dean Cafeteria and the corresponding honoring of Fr. John Dean. While he will not admit it, he isn't a youngster; and yet you know that there have been many laughs and good times as well as serious times shared between college students and him.

Our Christian faith brings people together who otherwise do not come together and our lives are richer for it.

If you would like to talk further, do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Ave. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Ave. (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred email is BSchoup@hotmail.com.

Laying a foundation for voting

Marvin Krislov
The Washington Post

A little-noticed effort to help enfranchise college students for the Ohio primary elections may have a significant effect in that battleground state and nationwide when Americans go to the polls in November.

At the urging of students from Oberlin College and other Ohio schools, Jennifer Brunner, Ohio's secretary of state, ruled in late February that colleges and universities can issue utility bills to their students, enabling them to fulfill the state's voter residency requirements. The bills, which require no action, reflect payment for services such as telephone, Internet access and electricity, already covered by the students' tuition and fees.

Some critics have assailed that decision, claiming it allows transient "outsiders" who did not grow up in a given community, do not pay local taxes and may leave upon graduation to affect the outcome of elections. Those views contradict our Constitution and the facts.

Voting in America is not restricted to taxpayers or property owners. Federal law guarantees college students the right to vote where they go to school. Many students have jobs and pay state and local taxes on their earnings. All students pay the taxes applied to goods and services, such as sales taxes. And in our highly mobile society, millions of voters do not live where they grew up. Denying such people the right to vote, which even the homeless are guaranteed, would be unthinkable.

Providing students with utility bills to prove residency does not circumvent the law. They still must comply with state residency requirements or vote absentee. But the utility bills make it easier for students to exercise their right to vote, and that's an encouraging sign not just for Ohio but for American democracy.

The health of a democracy depends on active, informed voters. Numerous studies have shown that young people who vote are likely to become lifelong voters. So a young person's first experience of voting should be welcoming, not frustrating.

Ohio colleges that have not already done so should consider providing the appropriate documentation so their students can vote. Other states with strict proof-of-residency requirements should emulate Ohio's willingness to help young voters participate.

That would be a welcome change from past practices that discouraged the youth vote. College students often have difficulty proving residency because they move during their time on campus, many every year, often from one dormitory to another. Many students also receive postal service via a campus mailroom, so they have no street address. Because some states require an exact match between the student's residence and the form of voter identification, a student might need to obtain an amended driver's license in the short period between the start of school and the deadline for voter registration. Finding the time and transportation to do that can be a problem.

These requirements, including Ohio's, have the effect of inhibiting student voting. In the 2004 elections, that chilling effect was egregious in some Ohio college towns. Students in Oberlin and in Gambier, where Kenyon College is located, stood in line for up to 14 hours at the polls because of a dearth of voting machines. Some grew frustrated and went home without voting. Many of those who eventually reached the polling booths had to cast provisional ballots because of residency issues.

Such issues still exist in Ohio and elsewhere. In Ohio's primary election on March 4, for example, some students in Oberlin waited in line for hours because the supply of ballots ran out. Given the heavy youth turnout so far in the 2008 primaries across the country, election officials should make sure that such shortages do not recur in November.

The writer is president of Oberlin College.

Movie review: 'Street Kings'

JIM EMERSON
CHICAGO SUN TIMES

The alarm clock buzzes.. Keanu Reeves wakes up fully dressed in a striped shirt, raises his gun and rolls out of bed. He puts his piece on the bathroom sink, next to his toothbrush, and takes a good long look at himself in the mirror. Then he pukes in the toilet. He climbs into the car and heads down the freeway as a glowing orange orb shimmers behind the skyscrapers of Los Angeles. Only the sun isn't rising. It's setting.

Night: Koreatown. Tom Ludlow (Reeves) stops by a liquor store and gulps down a couple teeny airline bottles of vodka. He insults some Korean hoods, who want to buy a machinegun he's got stashed in his trunk, insinuating that they're Japanese. "You dress white, talk black and drive Jew," he tells them before throwing in an all-purpose anti-Asian slur.

Ludlow is a racist cop, a renegade cop, a vigilante cop. We know this because next he wantonly massacres a bunch of Korean bad guys and makes it look like they shot one another. Then, when he's confronted by his African-American ex-partner, Terrence Washington (Terry Crews), he yells, "I'm racist!" In response, Washington calls him a "white boy." This seems especially odd because the Chinese-Hawaiian-Caucasian Reeves is, ancestrally speaking, roughly as white as Barack Obama.

This is the set-up for "Street Kings," which immediately forgets it ever brought up all that racial stuff, anyway. Almost as quickly, it loses interest in its main character's alcoholism. Then it raises the idea that Ludlow may still be in pain over his wife's death, but instantly ignores that, too, turning its deficit of attention to the killing of a police officer. The murder investigation leads the bull-headed Ludlow -- who, mind you, does not play by the rules! -- along a twisted trail of corruption that leads all the way to the highest level of the LAPD. Yeah I know. Who could have anticipated that?

If you wanted to make a strictly generic parody of crime writer James Ellroy's hardboiled Southland fiction (L.A. Confidential, "The Black Dahlia," "White Jazz"), could you do worse than to hire Ellroy himself and then, maybe, rewrite him a few times? Maybe not, because that's what appears to have happened here. Ellroy is credited with the template-stamped story and is listed first in the screenplay credits, followed by Kurt Wimmer and Jamie Moss, each of their names separated by an "and" instead of an ampersand, which tells you that they did not work together. Director David Ayer (writer of "Training Day" and co-writer of "The Fast and the Furious") also has been fingered as a scripting suspect, but he is not identified by name in the final lineup. If you've seen the trailer, know that about half of what's in it isn't in the final movie. That's a hint.

"Street Kings" is an anemic attempt to evoke the big, shiny action pictures of the late '80s and early '90s, the heyday of Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger, when Timothy Dalton was 007 and Clint Eastwood had fewer wrinkles and bigger hair. Back when it in aquarium appeared in a scene somebody was damn sure going to shoot it before the movie was over. The films good and bad, were loud and slick and mostly set in L.A., directed by people like John McTiernan, Richard Donner, Tony Scott and Renny Harlin: the "Die Hards," the "Lethal Weapons," "The Rookie," "The Last Boy Scout," "The Last Action Hero."

Reeves got in on that wave, too, with "Point Break" and "Speed," dodging bullets and breaking regulations in the name of the law. Those were the days when overkill was never enough, and "Street Kings" at least gets that part right. The crooked cops are not only crooked, they're also murderers willing to drop everything to rape their victims' widows and girlfriends just for fun. They are bad, bad, bad.

So is the screenplay, which reads like a Bartlett's of general-purpose action-movie lines:

"You were too close to evil, and you won!"

"Why can't you have a normal life like everybody else."

"Everything I touch dies."

Who are you to judge me!"

That doesn't even scratch the surface of the movie's banality, but every once in a while there's a real doozy like "He's got a Ph.D. in catching cops slipping up!" Or a text message from one crooked cop to another: "He's here. Kill him." And then the dude signs his nickname.

But come on, don't give Keanu Reeves -- or anybody for that matter -- a line like this, about Tom's ex-partner: "We were black and white in black and white, back when it meant something." Are these people trying to make the "Showgirls" of retro-1990s cop movies?

Sophomore director Ayer ("Harsh Times") is maybe not so sure. He seems invested in the chases and shootouts, but sometimes his spatial relationships break down, and you can't tell who is where. In one gunfight, an entire harvest gold-colored refrigerator materializes out of nowhere. Meanwhile, Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker doesn't seem to know what movie this should be while "Horse" star Hugh Laurie -- trying excitedly the same person that he does on TV -- may be in on the joke, as it probably is.

Ebert Rating: 1 1/2

Album Review: 'Trilla' by Rick Ross

ALEXANDER AZIZI
HIPHOPDX

In late 2006, unless you were living in a cave or didn't turn on the radio the odds are you were bumpin' Rick Ross at one time or another. Ross' debut album Port Of Miami was released in August of that year and the subsequent single "Hustlin'" instantly became the song of year, catapulting the rapper's career to instant stardom. "Hustlin'" was a bona fide street anthem, and will be regarded by many as a classic. Since Port Of Miami, Rick Ross has been constantly releasing material through mixtapes, so in a sense more time to perfect his craft. For many rappers, the infamous sophomore studio effort can either be a hit or a miss - especially considering how well Ross' debut performed on the charts. Expectations may be high but it is safe to say that Trilla follows the same blueprint as Port Of Miami and doesn't disappoint.

The album begins with an intro in which Ross gives a shout out to many different people in the game from John Doe to Lil Jon. Production is by the J.U.S.T.I.C.E. League, who contribute 4 songs for the album. The intro is followed by the Mannie Fresh produced "All I Have In This World (Japanese Denim)", which features a hyped beat, catchy hook and Scarface sample. Many fans will be pleased by this track because it is nothing but classic Ross. "The Boss" featuring cameo king T-Pain is a song you've probably heard already via mixtapes or because of its strong radio play as a second single. It is no doubt one of the better songs on the album and is an instant banger. Produced by J.R. Rotem, the claps, drums and piano rolls are very Scott Storch-esque. Rotem is quickly making his way in the industry through various high-profile projects such as this (and the Sean Kingston album) and could soon have the game asking: Scotty Who? With Jay-Z at his side and a dope J.U.S.T.I.C.E. League, "Maybach Music" is the best song on this album. Infused with a classic 70's soul vibe, Ross takes the time to reflect on his recent success and fame. This track is a prime example of how Ross' riches have added to his subject matter, so that it isn't all about the dope game anymore. Ross' lyrical potential and storytelling ability clearly shine here. It seems less bragging and more truth and reflection by Ross on his self. Jay lends one of his better performances heard from the veteran in a while. Even taking it back a few years: "I'm like G Rap with better transportation". Featured on "Luxury Tax" are Lil Wayne, Young Jeezy and Trick Daddy. When you combine their powers together on one track you really can't go wrong. Each lends quality verses that showcase them at their best. Weezy goes especially hard with slick lines like "New coup big-top no tennis shoes/I'm never slippin', even on the side of a swimming pool".

While there are many quality joints on this album, in this day and age it's hard to get by without some filler. The DJ Khaled Interlude is unnecessary: even out of place, but is to be expected since Ross has been featured on so much of his work. The Nelly featured "Here I Am" has a second-rate piano laden beat and really seems like it should have been on somebody else's album back in 1998. "Money Make Me Cum" is just straight up annoying with the title repeated over and over as the chorus. "I'm Only Human" is clearly supposed to be the "feel-good", inspirational cut on Trilla. The beat utilizes some heavy metal guitars but sounds better süited for a Shop Boyz album.

Blending a somewhat diverse mix of hot producers who are all at the top of their game, and well chosen quality guest appearances is evidently a mold of success for The Boss. Top that off with a flow that seems to improve continuously and you've got Trilla. Although the album has its downsides with some unremarkable songs, the quality of the album musically and lyrically definitely makes up for it. If you dug Port Of Miami you will for sure be pleased with this album and the progress that Rick Ross has made.

Westfield State presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Westfield State College's Theatre Arts Program will present William Shakespeare's comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, opening Wednesday, April 23, and playing through Saturday, April 26, in the Ely Studio Theatre in the Ely Campus Center.



Photo courtesy of www.midsummernightsdream.cjb.net

"Midsummer is one of Shakespeare's most delightful, loved, and well-known plays, appealing to audiences of most any age," said Jack Shea, coordinator of the Theatre Arts Program.

The production is directed by Sabine Macris Klein and designed by Elinor Parker and Alyssa McKeon with technical direction by Erik Siersdale.

The play will be performed at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday evenings, with four matinees: Thursday and Friday mornings, April 24 and 25 at 10:30 a.m., and Friday and Saturday afternoons, April 25 and 26 at 2:30 p.m. Seating is limited; early ticket purchases or reservations are strongly encouraged.

Tickets go on sale on Monday, April 14, at the Ely Campus Center Service Window. Reservations also will be accepted beginning Monday at 413-572-5682. Tickets are $3 for students and senior citizens, $6 for faculty and staff, and $8 general admission.







Photos by Hugh Mailly, photography editor

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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Tim McCarver: My reason to envy the deaf

Matthew Castonguay
Sports Columnist

For those of you that know me, you know I love baseball. You also know that I'm a lazy S.O.B. who likes to spend hours in front of the television watching baseball. Every year for the past couple years or so I've spent a good majority of the summer months either playing everyone's favorite drinking game (golf) or sitting on my ass eating take-out, yelling at the T.V., second guessing Bobby Cox, Terry Francona and others, or applauding Manny Ramirez for his 1-4 performance with a homer and 3 K's because, well, that's just Manny being Manny. Point is, I don't just enjoy baseball on television; I live for it.

There is one thing, however, that I can live without, and it makes its debut two months earlier than normal this year. No, I'm not talking about Roger Clemens coming out of retirement to help the Astros to a third place finish in the N.L. Central. No, I'm talking about Fox Saturday Baseball. More importantly, the return of the worlds most tired wind bag, James Timothy "Tim" McCarver.

For those of you who may not know who McCarver is, he's that shrill sound that can only be likened, though it may be cliché to say, to nails on a chalk board that you hear during the Championship Series and World Series on Fox in the fall. McCarver is that little annoying kid you always just wanted to punch in the mouth every time he said something because it was either useless or just plain stupid. McCarver's speaking ability makes Rain Man look like a steady public speaker.

There is no getting around it. Tim McCarver is the worst broadcaster in the history of televised sports, period. While some would make an argument for Billy Packer, the angry old man at CBS sports who once referred to Allen Iverson as a "tough monkey," or for Bryant Gumbell, who has famously slipped up and referred to Tony Romo as "Rick Romo" and 49ers running back Frank Gore as "Al Gore," they are still knowledgeable individuals and, more or less entertaining when they screw up. Tim McCarver is just ignorant and he tried to deflect his ignorance by spitting out jargon, repeating Joe Buck or mis-explaining a rule.

I could fill this column with quote after quote after mind numbingly dumb quote but that's for you to do on your own time at sites like www.shutuptimmccarver.com or the facebook group "Tim McCarver doesn't know anything and should be forced to live in the woods," where anyone who's innocence has been shattered by this tongue tied nit wit Fox sports has so devoutedly embraced for years, can read and reflect on some of the dumbest things ever uttered.

I can't however, leave without mentioning my favorite McCarver quote. It was 2004 and I was up late watching the Sox-Yankees game. It was easily one of the best games I've seen in my life and the ending was amazing. Of course, everyone remembers David Ortiz launching a walk off homer into the bullpen, but what may have been missed by the casual viewer was my favorite McCarver-ism ever. After Ortiz's moon shot landed in the Sox bullpen, McCarver yelled "Mt. Everest erupts again!" Too bad for Tinmmy, Mt. Everest is not a volcano. Seriously Tim, it's arguably the most famous mountain in the world, the tallest on earth, and you managed to think it was a volcano. I thought the fact that Mt. Everest was NOT a volcano was common knowledge. Anything Tim McCarver says is like Billy Madison's speech comparing "the puppy who lost his way" to the industrial revolution in that "Everyone in this room is now dumber for having listened to it."

Simply put, Tim McCarver is my reason to envy the deaf.

Authors Note

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While writing this piece and asking for input on it, someone who obviously has no idea who John Madden is besides as a character that Frank Caliendo does (Please, take the time to watch his Charles Barkley impression, you'll be a better person for it) asked me, "How come you don't write about how bad John Madden is? He's stupid!" To that I say, no, you're stupid. John Madden is just a far more masculine, foothall version of Tim Kurkjian (whose voice cracks more than most pre-pubescent teens), someone who knows the game immensely and tries to impart his knowledge and passion for the game to everyone and just happened to not be the best public speaker in the world. Let's face it; John Madden is harmless unless you're sliced turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes or any combination of the three.

***

NBA MVP debate

Chris Flood
Layout Editor

The end of the 2007-2008 NBA regular season will have ended by the time this issue is released and it will be remembered for a number of things; The reemergence of the Boston Celtics as a viable team, Lebron James continuing to surpass unbelievable expectations, big names like Shaquille O'Neal and Jason Kidd changing places midseason, the New Orleans Hornets going from finishing outside the playoffs to possibly being the best team in the Western Conference, the Rockets winning streak, and a chase for the final two spots in the West between Dallas, Denver and Golden State that, as of press time, is still undetermined. It's been a season of great team play and a close race for the Most Valuable Player award. Here's how I see the MVP race breaking down.

4. Lebron James

The King has the worst supporting cast of any of the contenders and to some that would be the definition of most valuable because without Lebron, the Cavaliers are cellar dwellers. He has the most impressive individual statistics, but his win total is the lowest of the contenders. However, put any talent around this guy and put the league on notice. Also, at just 23 and already a perennial MVP contender, King James will likely get his due before he's done.

3. Kevin Garnett

He's not in the top five in any of the six major categories but has super-charged the greatest single season turnaround in the history of basketball. Perhaps the most vocal and intense of the Celtic's vaunted "Big Three," Garnett has taken one of the worst defensive teams in the L and made them the best. The knock on him has always been that he doesn't want it in the clutch, but on this team he doesn't need to. In most years, KG would have the resume to win this award, but in this, one of the best regular seasons in recent memory, he'll have to settle for Defensive Player of the Year.

2. Chris Paul

To me, it was between Kobe and this man. Paul leads the league in assists and steals, the two most point guard-oriented statistics. He has led the charge for New Orleans, who finished outside of the playoffs last season. His playmaking skills are unbelievable and the pick-and-roll alley-oop with Tyson Chandler is the best in the game. Reminds me of the MVP runs that Steve Nash has made in past years but with better statistics.

1. Kobe Bryant

The greatest, most tumultuous, player of his generation. He has shown the Lakers that if you support him he will fully reward you. Despite all of the injuries to his team, his individual performance has not wavered. Currently has his team in first place in the West and is behind only Lebron is scoring average. I consider this MVP for Kobe the lifetime achievement award, and he deserves it after playing at such a high level for years and never garnering the award for Most Valuable Player. (Side note: search for "Kobe Hyperdunk" on Youtube to see what the Lakers do not want to see from their MVP so close to the playoffs.)

Crisp vs. Ellsbury

Teresa Dollfus
Sports Columnist

There is no doubt in the minds of Red Sox fans that Coco Crisp is a good player, but with Jacoby Ellsbury's production it's hard to keep him on the bench.

For the first few weeks of the season, manager Terry Francona has been alternating Crisp and Ellsbury in center field to try to provide each with equal playing time. Unfortunately for one of the two, this alternating schedule has to end sometime.

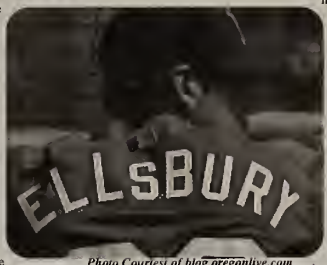


Photo Courtesy of blog.oregonlive.com

Everyone who watches Ellsbury play can see that he has a great deal of potential. He deserves to win the job as starting center fielder. Crisp may be slightly better in the field, but Ellsbury has better arm strength. Also, Ellsbury improves his fielding each game he plays, and he makes a great addition as a lead off hitter. Crisp, while he has gotten off to a good start so far, has his fair share of ups and downs offensively.



Photo Courtesy of www.unionleader.com

While Crisp has been with the Red Sox for a few seasons and has been an extraordinary asset in the field, it is Ellsbury's time to shine now. Ellsbury is the younger of the two; he has tremendous speed, and serves as a catalyst while at the plate. He is an amazing player who deserves to start everyday, and I think that Red Sox management sees that as well.

Any team in the majors would be lucky to have Crisp in their outfield. Crisp is a veteran who still possesses great speed and fielding. He would be a great addition to any team.

No matter what, each of these players should play everyday. They each bring something to the game every time they play. If Crisp leaves the team for another starting position, it would be a win-win situation for both players involved. Crisp and Ellsbury could both be starting center fielders and not have to sit on the bench every other day to accommodate someone else.

Ellsbury has something special, and that should not be ignored. With that something special, how long can you keep him on the bench? The Red Sox will answer that question in due time.

It will be interesting to see how this situation plays out throughout the season, and if Crisp gets traded at the July 31 trade deadline. There is definitely a battle ahead for each of these players to win the spot, but I have a prediction of who will win.

WWW.MASSUPT.ORG
EDUCATIONAL VACANCIES
Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents website:
www.massupt.org
Positions listed by School District
Listings updated weekly under EDUCATION JOB SITE link.
Available:
- Administrative
- Classroom Teacher
- Specialists

WSC-TV Club introduces the newly updated channel for Westfield State College!!

Channel 99 is the new channel to be updated on campus activities and issues, as well as to see some familiar Westfield faces!!

Fri 04/18	Quizzo Triva Gameshow 7:oo p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Comedian Josh Sneed 9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Ely Main Lounge
Sat 04/19	Hello Mahalo Performance 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Campus Green	Moonshine Performance 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Campus Green	Howie Day Performance 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Campus Green
Sun 04/20	Showing of Cloverfield 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Ely Main Lounge	Sunday Mass 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Intrefaith Center	Intramurals 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Parenzo Gym
Mon 04/21	Body Toning 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wellness Center	Business Club Casino Night 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall	Awesome Abs 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wellness Center
Tues 04/22	Academic Awards Ceremony 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Scanlon Banquet Hall	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	Christian Student Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Interfaith Center
Wed 04/23	Free Commuter BBQ 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Campus Green	Rock Wall open to WSC 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Woodward Center	A Mid Summer Night's Dream 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Black Box Theatre
Thurs 04/24	Fed Ex Recruitment 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. SGA Conference Room	Karoake Night 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ely Main Lounge

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Voice is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!

THE Voice
THE STUDENT PRESS OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE
Volume XIII | May 2, 2008 | Issue XIV

Top 10 Signs President Bush Has Too Much Time On His Hands

10. Spends most of the day looking for friends on Facebook

9. Stops by Cheney's office every five minutes to see if hes still alive

8. Calls leaders of foreign countries yelling "Baha Booey Baha Booey

7. Sits on the White House lawn and waves at cars

6. The man is a walking encyclopedia on "The Hills"

5. Gives the 3pm White House tour

4. Earlier today, he washed and waxed Air Force One

3. Doing a three-episode stint as a sexy assistant on "How I Met Your Mother"

2. "President is on the trampoline" isnt a Secret Service code, he's actually on the trampoline

1. Finally catching up on unread intelligence reports

Compliments of the Late Show with David Letterman

Future teachers to fix up Shrewsbury school in memory of lost colleague

CRAIG PHELAN
WESTFIELD STATE

Their friend lost her life before she could fulfill her dream: teaching in an elementary school in her hometown, in a classroom beside her mother's.

So, instead of commemorating the memory of former Westfield State College student Elizabeth Connolly with a stone or a plaque, the students in the college's teacher education program decided to evoke her spirit in the place where Liz had envisioned her future to be.

Her mother, Barbara Connolly, teaches at Walter J. Paton Elementary School in Shrewsbury, Mass. Connolly's daughter Liz would have graduated from Westfield State with a degree in education in May 2009. But she died in a tragic accident last summer while working on campus for a freshman orientation program—welcoming new students and their parents, as she had hoped to do in her own classroom someday. She fell from a moving golf cart, and never recovered from her injuries.

This spring, her friends will reach out to help others—just as Liz always did, they say. On Saturday, May 3, hundreds of future teachers from Westfield, Framingham, Fitchburg, Worcester, and Bridgewater State Colleges will go to Paton Elementary, built in the 1950s, to give it a facelift. They will restore a nature trail, paint lockers in cheery colors, clean and reorganize supply areas, trim shrubbery, cover radiators, dig holes for trees to help the school "go green," and spruce up the Teachers Room of the school—all with Liz's dream in mind.

This inspired and inspiring effort, called "Outreach to Teach," is spearheaded by Sarah Odachowski, of Norwood, Mass., who will graduate from Westfield State College this May. Odachowski got the idea for a regional "Outreach to Teach" program from the Student National Education Association (SNEA). An education and liberal studies major at Westfield, Odachowski is an active SNEA member, serving as chapter president since 2006, and one of only nine students from across the country appointed to the NEA (National Education Association) Advisory Committee of Student Members. Moreover, as one of four students chosen nationally, she took to heart the lessons of a special Family School Community Cohort training in Washington, D.C.

Odachowski has also participated in SNEA's "Outreach to Teach" program, conducted on the national level each summer. At schools in cities like Orlando and Philadelphia, college students and retired teachers meet to help with projects in needy districts, doing everything from painting to laying down new sod in playgrounds.

"It's a great program," Odachowski said. "Having done it for two years, I wanted to bring it here."

In September, she and other students—primarily the 100 members of Westfield State's SNEA chapter—sprang into action. They contacted the school, recruited assistance, and raised money to help with the costs of the Shrewsbury project. They wrote letters to Shrewsbury parents seeking other skilled volunteers to provide guidance for landscaping, carpentry, and painting tasks.

Over seven months, the Westfield students raised $12,000 through an NEA grant, contributions from the college, a "Walk for Liz" on the Westfield State College campus, and private donations, mostly from other Westfield students. Over 70 Westfield students attended a recent "general interest" meeting Odachowski organized; dozens more replied that they couldn't attend the meeting, but they'd be there on May 3.

Working from a wish list provided by Paton Elementary School principal Jane Wilkins, the Westfield students developed a game plan. Buses from Westfield will arrive in Shrewsbury—about 70 miles from their campus—at seven o'clock in the morning. The students will work with their shovels, hammers, and paintbrushes from then until late afternoon.

"We're looking forward to it," principal Wilkins said. "The town does a good job of keeping our school in shape, but you know, there's never quite enough staff or money for some of the cosmetic touches that would make such a difference."

"We're trying to think of other projects for the school because we'll have so many people there," Odachowski says.

She expects 500 to 600 people, including college students and community volunteers, to be part of her Outreach to Teach effort—almost double the number of pupils in the Grafton Street school, which enrolls 363 children in first through fourth grades. And Odachowski is as sure about the outcomes of her ambitious tribute to her friend as she was of her own purpose in life.

...continued on page 3

President to kiss goat

CRAIG PHELAN
WESTFIELD STATE

Westfield State College President Evan S. Dobelle will fulfill his pledge to kiss a goat for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at the Gran-Val Scoop, an ice cream stand and farm in Granville. The event is free and open to the public.

The Brown family, owners of the Gran-Val Scoop, also promised to donate 10 percent of the proceeds from the day's ice cream sales to the charity.

The event was made possible by the Class of 2008, which declared March "Make-A-Wish Month" at the college in an effort to raise enough money to grant a third wish for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Dobelle pledged to give a smooch to a goat if the students raised at least $1,000, which they have accomplished.

"I am proud of our students' commitment and enthusiasm to work on these charitable projects," Dobelle said. "They demonstrate the sort of concern for the broader community that the college encourages."

Since taking on the challenge of supporting Make-A-Wish from their sister class, the Class of 2006, the seniors have been able to raise enough money to grant two wishes. The first was granted to a 3-year-old boy, who wanted to go to Disney World with his family for a week. The second wish will be granted in the upcoming months.

Recent Westfield State graduate accepted in Teach for America

CRAIG PHELAN
WESTFIELD STATE

Recent Westfield State College graduate Stacey Berry has been accepted into the Teach for America program to help teach underprivileged youth across America. The East Sandwich native will travel to California this fall to teach for the first time. Berry will be the first ever Westfield State graduate to be accepted into the national program.

The Teach for America program, which is part of the AmeriCorps, aims at bridging the gap in the level of education received by low- and middle-income families across the United States.

The competitive program accepts a small number of college graduates from various backgrounds and degrees to help with its mission. The new teachers are sent to various cities and schools that serve lower income students. Teach for America has sent teachers to cities such as Atlanta, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Phoenix.

"The achievement gap in the United States is unbelievable," Berry said. "The community you come from shouldn't dictate the quality of your education. I was lucky enough to have great teachers all throughout my public school education; teachers I knew cared about my success and always pushed me academically. I hope my students will have access to the same opportunities that were available to me, because of the excellent education I received."

...continued on page 3

Congratulations Molly Pappas & Jenn Krok Class of 2008!!

Good Luck in your future endeavours

Spring Flowers



Inside

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Morris has a lifetimes worth of experience

Colby Henderson
Editor-in-Chief

Amidst all of the glitz and glitter of Paris, one of the greatest cities in the world, it was hard to focus on our main reason for being there, the International Communication Seminar. Our goal was to meet men, women, and students from all over the world with communication being the major, and often the only thing we had in common.

Having met students from schools such as Northwestern University, Ohio State University, and the American University of Paris, as well as students from as close as Chicago, Detroit, and San Diego and as far away as Zimbabwe, Palestine, Taiwan and Cambodia, there was a pretty good sense of global communication.

For me, the most unique and fulfilling encounter came on the last day of the conference when we met world renowned photo journalist, John Morris,



author of "Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism" and who many consider to be the world's most influential photo editor.

Morris was born in 1916 in Chicago, Illinois. He began working for Life magazine as a "copy boy office boy" in New York City upon graduating from the University of Chicago in 1937. He was re-located to Los Angeles in 1941 where he celebrated his 25th birthday on December 7, the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

In the fall of 1943, Morris volunteered to travel to London, leaving behind his wife and children, to cover the eventual invasion of Western Europe. Morris described his job as simply to "get pictures" of the invasion. While in London, Morris met Ernest "Papa" Hemingway at a party that was being thrown in his honor by legendary journalist Robert Capa and would go on to spend a good amount of time covering the war with Hemingway, Capa, and John Steinbeck.

Morris has been in the business for over seven decades in which he has worked for the New York Times, Washington Post, and Life Magazine, among others. Morris remains active in politics and is a strong supporter of presidential candidate, Barack Obama, as he is a member of Obama's European campaign and often hosts Democratic functions in his Paris home.

I consider myself extremely lucky to have met such an influential and powerful man. A man who has shaken the hands of authors, journalists, presidents, prime ministers, dictators, all of the central figures of the 20th century and he is an inspiration to all aspiring photographers and journalists alike.

Endangered Bears

Kenneth R. Weiss
Los Angeles Times

A federal judge in Oakland, Calif., has ordered the Interior Department to decide by May 15 if the polar bear should be protected as an endangered species because of melting sea ice due to global warming.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken decided, in a ruling released Tuesday that government failed to meet the deadline of Jan. 9, a legal requirement under the Endangered Species Act. She dismissed the Bush administration's plea to give it until June 30, saying officials offered "no specific facts that would justify the existing delay, much less further delay."

To give the administration more time, the judge wrote, "would violate the mandated listing deadlines under the (Endangered Species Act) and congressional intent that time is of the essence in listing threatened species."

Wilken's decision is a victory for three conservation groups that petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the Interior Department, to protect the polar bear as a species threatened with extinction because of receding sea ice.

The polar bear makes its living hunting arctic seals when ice covers the polar seas. As the ice has retreated for longer periods every spring and summer, the fasting period for the bears has grown longer, weakening them and disrupting their reproduction.

Scientists have documented bears that have resorted to cannibalism and drowned between large gaps in the ice. In addition, reproductive rates for females and survival rates for cubs have declined, according to studies. The U.S. Geological Survey predicts that two-thirds of the polar bears may vanish with their melting habitat by 2050.

The Interior Department issued a statement Tuesday, but declined to tip its hand. "We have received the court's decision and are reviewing it," said Shane Wolfe, the department's spokesman. "We will evaluate the legal options and will decide the appropriate course of action."

Regardless of what Interior decides, lawyers for conservation groups said they believe that mounting scientific evidence would make it easy to persuade a judge that an endangered species listing is warranted.

Kassie Siegel, who wrote the initial petition for the Center for Biological Diversity, called the upcoming decision "the first step toward saving the polar bear and the entire Arctic ecosystem from global warming."

The Center for Biological Diversity, Greenpeace and the Natural Resources Defense Council said they sought the listing in part to force the Bush administration to take more serious steps toward combating global warming, such as imposing federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

When the department missed the January deadline, these groups sued to force action.

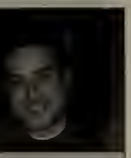
The polar bear listing comes as the Bush administration is moving to open new oil and gas drilling prime polar bear habitat in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's north coast. Under questioning from members of Congress, Interior Department officials have asserted that the delay on the polar bear listing and the movement toward new drilling are not connected.

Moreover, the Bush administration and global warming skeptics, such as Sen. James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican on the Committee on Environment and Public Works, have argued that the effort to list the polar bear as endangered is part of an agenda by environmentalists to thwart new coal-fired power plants needed to meet America's growing energy needs.

"It's unfortunate that the debate has become more about timelines than actual science," Inhofe said in a statement. "What has become clear through this heavily litigated process is that listing the polar bear as a threatened species is not about protecting the polar bear but rather advancing a particular political agenda."

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., the chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, said she was "pleased that the court has ordered the Interior Department to stop stalling and finalize its decision regarding polar bears. These magnificent creatures are in peril, and this administration has no right to walk away from protecting them."

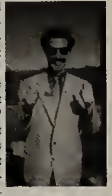
Editor's Desk



For my first editor's desk I would like to thank Molly, Jenn, Chris, and Eryn for all of their help this year. Without them, Jeff and I would be even more lost than we are right now. As for myself, I would like to say that I am really looking forward to being co-editor's with my roommate, Jeff Dale and we hope to enhance the student newspaper in anyway possible. For anybody that would like to be a part of the Voice in the upcoming 2008-2009 academic year, we are having a general interest picnic in Stanley Park on Monday, May 5th at 6:00pm. I'd also like to congratulate the class of 2008, especially Molly, Jenn, Chris, Eryn, and Evan Cullerton. Good job guys! Go Sox!!

Colby Henderson
Editor-In-Chief
TheVoice@wsc.ma.edu

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Summer vacation almost here!



Finals!

Shrewsbury schools

...from page 1

"I always wanted to work with kids," she says. At one time, she thought that might mean going into family law. After talking to a district attorney about what that entails, though, she decided "no way." Then, in high school, she had the opportunity to teach poetry in an elementary school. She knew she'd found her rhyme and reason: "I just knew that I loved it," she says.

That love has led to dedication. In addition to her involvement with SNEA, Sarah has been a Massachusetts Teachers Association student committee member since 2005, and co-chair (with Kim Auger, a teacher from Everett, Mass.) since 2006. She is the first college student ever to become a chair of this statewide committee of professional teachers. All of that extracurricular activity hasn't hurt her academic career, either. With a GPA OF 3.68, Odachowski has been inducted into three scholastic honor societies.

Odachowski's dedication reflects a long history of teacher education at Westfield State College, which was established in 1838 as the first, public coeducational school for teacher training—or Normal School—in the United States. it has served as a model for education systems nationally and internationally.

Odachowski's dedication also reflects that of her friend Liz Connolly, who would have served as treasurer on the SNEA chapter executive board this year, along with Sarab. Instead, Liz's friends went to a memorial service for her on the college campus last September. They wore pink—Liz's favorite color.

"She was so active, so passionate about the college, and kids, and teaching," said Odachowski. "We know she'd love what we're doing."

Piano Competition

Craig Phelan
Westfield State

For the sixth year. the Westfield State College Music Department will host the Young Artist Piano Competition (YAPC), giving young artists the chance to perform in front of professionals. The competition and evaluations involving more than 200 young pianists will take place throughout the day on Saturday, May 3. A concert by the winners of various categories will take place at 6 p.m. that evening in Dever Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

Students are asked to prepare one or two pieces of music from time periods of their choice. They then play the pieces from memory before a panel of professional musician judges.

Westfield State has hosted the YAPC since it was founded five years ago by Galina Gertsenzon of the Music Department faculty and Ruth Farnsworth, a longtime music educator and supporter of music. Ellen Buoniconte, a piano teacher and owner of The Music Cellar in West Springfield, is also helping to organize the event.

The competition includes several levels and ages of pianists, from 6- to 18-year-olds to college level players. For students who do not want to compete yet are interested in having an evaluation of their skills, YAPC has a non-competitive "Evaluation" category. This category allows students the opportunity to be evaluated by professional music teachers.

In addition to Gertsenzon. the judges include Kevin Rhodes, conductor of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra; Andrew Bonacci, chair of the Westfield State Music Department, and Clifton Noble, a Smith College music faculty member and music reviewer, as well as other area musicians and educators Charles Page, Gary Steigerwalt, Jeannette Ghareeb, Joel Martin, Sandy Dennis, Nicole Agostino, Estela Olevsky and Karen Ducharme.

"The Young Artist Piano Competition has achieved recognition for its high standards of excellence in every area of the competition from preparation to delivery," Farnsworth said. "We have developed an atmosphere where students will meet others who share their love of classical music and grow in their knowledge of the classics. Our students learn about themselves and grow musically while learning to compete against others."

Teach for America

...from page 1

Berry, a sociology major who graduated this past January, will teach students in the Bay Area of California this school year after completing a five-week teacher "boot camp." There, she learned teaching skills, such as lesson planning, classroom management, learning theory, and literacy development.

"Originally, I had no plans to ever become a teacher," Berry said. "I knew I wanted to major in Sociology and would probably end up going to grad school for social work. However, the more aware I became of the economic stratification in this country, the more I felt I needed to do something about it."

"Education is the deciding factor in so many of life's opportunities, and it's not fair to kids in urban and rural areas to be stuck under the poverty line indefinitely just because their education was so deficient," she said. "Becoming part of Teach for America will enable me to actually combat a serious social problem and hopefully make a positive difference for a few kids in the Bay Area."

Berry applied for the program last September with an online application that included basic academic information, an essay and teacher recommendations. The next step was a 30-45 minute phone interview and finally an in-person interview. In 2007 there were more than 18,000 applicants, and only 2,900 were accepted. Since the inception of the program, more than 17,000 college graduates have participated and have impacted nearly 2.5 million students.

While teaching in California next fall, Berry will attend Alliant International University in San Francisco, where she will work on getting her teaching credential. After her teaching duties, Berry will go on to graduate school at either Alliant or the University of California Berkley for either education or public policy.

For more information on the Teach for America program, visit www.teachforamerica.org.

Bringing home the bacon

Randy Lewis
Los Angeles Times

The critical information inquiring minds want to know about the giant stage prop that disappeared during Roger Waters' closing performance Sunday night at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival isn't so much where it is now but exactly how a two-story inflatable pig masterminds a daring escape in front of tens of thousands of fans in the first place.

Festival organizers are offering a $10,000 reward plus four lifetime passes to Coachella to whoever engineers the safe return of said plastic porker by contacting them at lostpig@coachella.com. "We're getting varying reports on which part of the reward -- the cash or the tickets -- is more valuable," a Coachella spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The spokeswoman couldn't explain the circumstances that led to the getaway, saying festival executives were still trying to piece it together. But they want their pig back, she said, for a possible encore at some future edition of the fest in the California desert southeast of Palm Springs.

Conspiracy can't be ruled out, considering this isn't the first pig to float off into the night sky in recent times. On Waters' 2006 tour, which centered on complete performances of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon," the graffiti-inscribed oinker was allowed to drift away on several occasions, including the opening performance of his three-night stint at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. Local authorities said Waters would face charges if it happened again, and, to no one's surprise, Porky remained contentedly tethered during the other two L.A. shows.

Wallet saves man

Molly Hennessy-Fiske
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES -- A wallet in a man's back pocket shielded him from injury Tuesday morning in a drive-by shooting in South Los Angeles that left a 37-year-old man dead, authorities said.

The uninjured man, whose name and age haven't been released, was riding a bicycle alongside Travon Lee Gentry about 1:40 a.m. when a blue Chevrolet Malibu pulled up alongside and two men inside began shooting, said Los Angeles police spokesman Richard French.

Gentry was shot in the back and neck and died at the scene, Los Angeles County Coroner's Capt. Ed Winter said.

The other man was shot in the buttocks, but his wallet stopped the bullet, French said. Authorities did not have further details about the type of wallet or how it deflected the shot.

No arrests had been made in connection with the shooting, and police had not released descriptions of the gunmen.

Students send packages to troops

Craig Phelan
Westfield State

The Westfield State College Student Government Association (SGA), in collaboration with Student Affairs, recently sponsored a Care Package Program that sent 28 care packages to students, alumni and other soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas of deployment. Last year, SGA sent out about dozen care packages.

"The packages were sent to Westfield State students, as well as friends and family of faculty and staff serving in the military," , said Susan LaMontagne, interim vice president for student affairs. "We've already heard from some of the recipients, telling us how much they appreciate it and that they are sharing the packages with their units."

The students sent out packages to soldiers with a number of food and entertainment items. Packages included things like snack bags, drink mixes, instant soups, music, movies, books, playing cards, and more.

Letter to the editor

Kristen Mientka
Special Contributor

If I hear one more college-age guy say to a female, casually, that, why yes, he does play the guitar, I'm going to scream.

Today more than ever, kids in high school and college are picking up musical instruments. Walk across any college campus and you're likely to find at least one scruffy young man, clothes and hair rumpled strategically, banging away on an acoustic guitar, all the while surrounded by a gang of starry-eyed young women who worship him.

These guys are pretty much a dime a dozen. Females, however, are a different story. Stroll across the same college campus, and you'll see nary a young woman strumming a six-string. Which makes me a little nostalgic for 1998.

In '98, the Lilith Fair music festival was in full swing. The concert tour, dreamed up by Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan, featured a full roster of female acts, including the Indigo Girls, Patty Griffin and Liz Phair, all of whom wrote and performed intensely personal and political songs. In other words, Lilith was a record executive's worst nightmare.

But somehow, Lilith became extraordinarily successful. It grossed millions of dollars between the summers of 1997 and 1999. The concerts gave artists young and old the opportunity to meet, collaborate, and have fun. It gave fans a chance to see many of their favorites perform on the same stage. Not to mention plenty of camaraderie. As a result of this success, artists like Jewel and Alanis took control of the airwaves.

Yet ten years later, the Lilith brand of music is virtually absent from pop radio. Instead, the medium is saturated with the self-pitying laments of pseudo-depressed emo rockers and folkie poseurs.

What gives?

Lilith's critics, whether they wanted to or not, destroyed much of women's progress in rock 'n roll. back in 1998, the world was a much more innocent place. This was before 9/11, before Al Gore warned us of that looming inconvenient truth, before the Bush administration wreaked havoc on the world. Conservative groups were bored—so they needed somebody to pick on. Who better than a group of girl singers?

Obviously, right-wingers reasoned, a gathering of women musicians had to be up to no good. Many claimed the tour was a haven for man-haters and baby-killers. Jerry Falwell himself published a "tell-all" article accusing Lilith Fair of breeding evil. Many Christian groups cited the festival's use of the name of Lilith—a Biblical demon woman—as a cause for concern. (Lilith, in case you're wondering, was Adam's first wife. She got sick and tired of her husband's oppressing her, so she left him for Satan.)

As it turns out, the women at Lilith Fair weren't so evil after all. McLachlan told the National Catholic Review—yes, Catholic—that the festival was actually quite a spiritual event for all involved. Instead of promoting witchcraft and man-hating, it gave females a chance to bond, which is something many women find lacking in the traditionally patriarchal world of evangelical Christianity. Granted, this may not have been the kind of spirituality advocated by Fallwell & Co., but let's face it: their views are skewed.

Conservatives aren't the only ones to blame. Left-wing groups took issue with Lilith Fair, too. Ms. magazine, that famed bastion of feminism, criticized McLachlan for not using the word "feminist" in the promotion of the festival. Other liberal groups claimed Lilith Fair musicians were too soft, too polite.

I beg to differ. Take Sheryl Crow, Crow's style was straight-up rock 'n roll. She rocked out on electric guitar. She sang, "God I feel like hell tonight/Tears of rage I cannot fight/I'll be the last to help you understand/Are you strong enough to be my man?"

And look at Liz Phair. She wasn't known for a pretty singing voice, yet her 1993 album Exile in Guyville won raves for it's honesty. Her lyrics rival Crow's for raw, unbridled emotion. Take her song "F*** And Run": "And I can feel it in my bones/I'm gonna spend another year alone/It's f*** and run, f*** and run, f*** and run/Even when I was seventeen/ It's f*** and run, f*** and run, f*** and run/Even when I was twelve." Phair gets down to the bone. She doesn't tone it down. She's blunt and honest. The entire album, in fact, is peppered with enough expletives to warrant a parental-advisory label on the cover.

Neither Phair nor Crow, or their Lilith comrades, would edit their songs to appease male record execs. Hardly seems polite to me.

The criticism of Lilith Fair may not have worked back then, but in the decade since, it's served to undermine the honesty and outright feminism of many artists. Today, you'll hardly find a powerful song written and performed by a female artist that cracks the Top 40. Many Lilith artists today are singing watered down, commercialized pop. Crow's music has mellowed out ("Soak Up The Sun"), losing much of its edge in the process. Phair sings bland, forgettably generic tunes ("Why Can't I?"). Jewel, whose "Who Will Save Your Soul" urged girls to "get out on the streets and bust your butts," hung up her acoustic guitar in favor of MTV-lite bubblegum ditties.

Of course there are singer-songwriters like Colbie Caillat and Natasha Bedingfield, but their material is as bland as elevator music. And of course, there are J. Lo and Britney, who offer minimal talent—and a minimal wardrobe. Sure, these gals may have strong stage presence. They may even deliver some catchy hooks. But when you boil it all down, they're not much more than chick singers. They look pretty, but they could be doing more.

Now think about this. Which is more feminist: Women who write and perform their own songs and sing them with conviction? Or women who sing what they're told to sing, dress how they're told to dress, and don't have much control over their own careers? Who's a better role model for a teenage girl: A woman who's talented and has fun performing songs she's written, on issues she cares about? Or a scantily-clad Lolita who flaunts her sexuality rather than her talent?

Lilith Fair wasn't a negative thing. It was about fans and artists coming together to share music. It's time we stopped letting women in music compromise themselves.

I know you're out there, girls. You're sitting in your dorm rooms because you're too ashamed to come outside and jam. So let's take back rock 'n roll from the boys.

Editor's Desk



So the editor change is in full swing and it's been going as smoothly as it could go. Considering it's my first editor's desk I wou't blabb on and would just like to thank Molly Pappas, Jenn Krok, Chris Flood, Chris Dondoros, Eryn Carter, Even Cullerton and all the senior staff members that will be graduating in a couple weeks. I thank you all for your hard work, and dedication to the paper over the years. You all will be sorely missed. Good luck in all your future endeavors! You guys are awesome!

Jeff Dale
Co-Editor-In-Chief
thevoice@wsc.ma.edu

Protestant Chaplain's Column

by: Pastor Bruce

Every time I drive by the northwest corner of Stanley Park I am reminded Spring has arrived. It is invariably dotted with sunbathers. The pool of sun bathers has an umbilical cord attaching itself to the main campus. Moving up and down the umbilical cord are those planning on catching a few rays as well as those whose sense of duty has called them back into the world of responsibility.

In the meantime, Stanley Beach is filled with those basking in the light and warmth of the sun. They soak in the rays of the sun. It is relished. The body and mind relax. Life is good. If only I were a few years younger, I too might be out there with you.

I could say that I feel for the professors whose classes must be empty on such days; however, I know that no WSC student would dream of cutting a class for a chance in the sun. Students today are much more responsible than when the likes of myself were in school.

Basking in the glory of the sun is indeed a gift of God.

Allow me to repeat, basking in the glory of "The Son" is indeed a gift from God.

Okay, I'm pushing it. Still, think about it. Those of us who are followers of Jesus think of him as "The Son of God." In him we see the fullness and brightness of God's light and God's love. We even think of him as being the "light of the world."

As we look to "The Son" and bask in his glory, we are filled with warmth and life. We are filled with peacefulness and energy.

Basking in the light of God's Son brings the assurance that we are loved. We have a purpose. We will be renewed when we are tired. We will have light when there is darkness.

The more we bask in God's light the stronger and better we become.

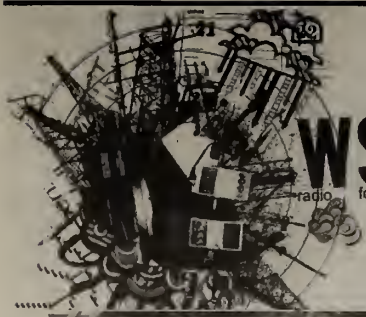
The act of worship, intentionally entering into prayer, or participating in a Bible study causes us to bask in God's light.

I've very intentionally chosen the word, "bask" because it is something that one does entirely by choice and is full of pleasure. This is what sunbathing/SONbatbing is all about.

When I see Stanley Beach and its sun worshipers, I have a vision that I will also see a stream of students going to bask in God's light. Here I have intentionally shifted from the "Son's Light" to "God's Light." While I would love to see you in my church or another Christian church, my primary hope is that you experience God's light somewhere. It warms, renews, strengthens, and is indeed glorious.

I call you to bask in the glory of God's light and be renewed. It is a pleasant gift.

If you would like to talk further, do not hesitate to contact me at 572-8163. You are welcome to join my congregation for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM at Second Congregational United Church of Christ, 487 Western Avenue. Tue.-Fri. mornings I am usually in the office at 487 Western Avenue (you cross the church yard as you walk from WSC campus to WSC campus). My preferred E-mail is BSchoup@hotmail.com.





Name: Lynsey Freeman

Name of Show: Odds 'N Sods!

Time: Fridays 8-10 PM

Tag: "Rockin' you into the night, again!"

Email: eyerockeyeroll@aim.com

Show 411: Two hours of all kinds of music, specializing in classic rock (hence the title), with a special theme every week! Time to tune in, turn on, and drop out. =)

Hometown: Framingham, MA

Lynsey loves a wide range of Music, and TV shows and has a wide range of interest. Check her out Fridays from 8-10 on WSKB Radio for the Western Masses

For More info on WSKB 89.5 go to our website @ http://wskb895.wordpress.com/

Plan on "Forgetting Sarah Marshall"

Jim Emerson
Chicago Sun-Times

Jason Segel's p***** probably would not sell a lot of tickets all by itself. Not that there's anything wrong with it, but most of us don't think of the co-star of "Freaks and Geeks," "Knocked Up" and "How I Met Your Mother" in that way. As wise men (and women) always point out, it's not the thing itself that matters, it's what you do with it. And what Segel does with it as star and writer of "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is magnificent. Between his brief nude scene at the very beginning (a humiliating, emotionally naked break-up and breakdown), and his even briefer final one (a welcome reunion of sorts), he discovers quite a lot about himself through his genitalia.

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" will, quite properly, be seen as the next issue from writer-producer-director Judd Apatow's anti-stud farm, a sibling of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," "Knocked Up" and "Superbad." Part of the fun is the way these films mix and match names and faces to produce the randy-but-tender recombinant comedy that has become synonymous with the Apatow brand.

So, for example, Apatow regular Paul Rudd (who appears in this movie as a brain-fried hotel surf coach named Chuck) is friends with Rob Thomas, who is the creator of TV's terrific (now-canceled) "Veronica Mars," which starred Kristen Bell in the title role. Here Bell plays the eponymous Sarah Marshall, star of a ludicrous forensic detective show called "Crime Scene" opposite William Baldwin, whose stock in trade is making tastelessly absurd tough-guy wisecracks about hideously sickening crimes (see any episode of the "CSI" or "Law and Order" franchises).

Sarah's boyfriend (now ex-) Peter Bretter (Segel) provides the "score" for her show, consisting entirely of routine riffs, stings and ominous chords. He'd rather be writing a rock opera. (I hesitated to even give away that much since, in this movie, the offhand use of the term "rock opera" is hilarious all by itself, as well as being the setup for a series of escalating gags. These guys are so subtle and smart, even when they're being vulgar and dumb.)

When Sarah dumps goofy nice-guy Peter for a ridiculous, slithery, pop singer named Aldous Snow (brilliantly inventive Brit TV personality Russell Brand, with a fan-blown black mane), he tries everything to get over her: drinking to excess, reckless rebound sex, television reality shows. None of it makes him feel better. So he escapes to a Hawaiian island resort where, as nightmares would have it, Sarah and Aldous have also come to get away from it all. Hotel hospitality clerk Rachel Jenson (Mila Kunis, the tiny shrew of "That '70s Show" who has become stunningly gorgeous) takes pity on Peter's pain, but where will it lead?

You know exactly where, and the pleasure of "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is in how it gets there. Which is not to undervalue the good and plentiful jokes in Segel's script, a mash-up of "10," "Modern Romance" and "Better Off Dead...," no doubt enlivened by spontaneous invention on the set. Remember Brian Dennehy as the nurturing bear of a bartender who looks after Dudley Moore in his hours of alcoholic sexual desperation? Here that role is split into two massive resort workers and one laidback beach dude, and they're all funny in their own ways. But there's also a real-world twist: One of the guys with whom Segel feels a vacation-connection turns out to be flying on autopilot, just doing his job the best he can. Not with malicious intent – it's just his personality, which is probably what got him hired in the first place.

All in all, the movie feels like a vacation on which you keep bumping into amusing acquaintances whom you're actually happy to see, and who know better than to overstay their welcome: Jonah Hill and Bill Hader (both from "Knocked Up" and "Superbad") as a starstruck waiter and well-meaning stepbrother, respectively; Jack McBrayer (the amazing Kenneth, the NBC page, on "30 Rock") as a honeymooner with sexual hangups who's having trouble pleasing his new wife; and let's not forget Carla Gallo as Gag Me Girl in one quick scene. Apatow geeks may recall her as Jay Baruchel's girlfriend (and Segel's ex) in "Undeclared" -- or as Toe Sucking Girl in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin"; or Period Blood Girl in "Superbad." Every one of them is like a splash of rum, or a dash of hot sauce, at the bountiful island buffet. It wouldn't matter if their parts never get much bigger -- they all deserve to be huge stars for what they do in small slices of screen time.

Like most Apatow-influenced movies, "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is, at heart, about forgiveness. We all do stupid, destructive and self-destructive things for which we're probably not going to forgive ourselves, so the best thing in the world is when somebody else forgives us. In the movie's moral universe, there are no irredeemably bad people -- just those afflicted to various degrees with shallowness, immaturity, selfishness, obliviousness, ambition.

For some critics and audiences -- who've made these kinds of complaints before -- the chief difficulty will be finding a way to forgive lumpish, doughy Peter for not being pretty enough to attract women as knockout beautiful as Sarah or Rachel. Fine, but that's the point at which the movie's geek-fantasy begins. Trying to actually maintain these relationships involves hard work, diligence, introspection, empathy and more than a little disappointment.

And when somebody's as funny as Segel's Peter is here, you can forgive a lot. He doesn't even have to look like he's doing anything. Watch for the moment when he leaves a hotel room and negotiates around the edge of a flower bed to the room next door. It's a variation on a Buster Keaton gag from "The Navigator" (1923) and there's seemingly nothing to it -- just the perfect execution of an arc. P***** are a dime a dozen; Segel's walk-of-indignity is priceless.

Ebert: 4 and 1/2 Stars

"Black and Gold" relevant again?

Pat Dayton
Sports Editor

Going into the 2007-2008 campaign "experts" chose the Boston Bruins to be the laughing stock of the NHL. Granted, 8th place isn't exactly the most envious position, but it's a far cry from the laughing stock of the league. The "Black and Gold" accomplished a lot this winter; they brought some home grown talent up to get experience, they showed glimmers of the grit that it takes to wear the spoken B across your chest, they renewed a rivalry with the hated Canadiens, and most importantly they began to bring back some of the fan base they lost in the lockout.

That fan base has began to creep back onto Causeway Street, not just because there is a hockey team playing, but because of how that hockey team is playing. They had a blue collar attitude, led by 19 year old Milan Lucic who's workman like "play quickly" attitude spread throughout the team. As with any team goaltending is the key to success. Tim Thomas took the reigns as number one goaltender and never looked back, despite entering the season with no respect from the city or the organization.

Seeing the Bruins march into the playoffs and force a game 7 may not seem like a big achievement, especially in a town that has been so spoiled with the Red Sox, Patriots, and even the Celtics. But I see big things happening next season for the "Black and Gold" and as we head into the off-season one can only hope the team builds on this season with the goal of bringing Lord Stanley back to the Hub of Hockey.

Celtics caught in series

Jeff Dale
Editor In Chief

Coming into this series I have to admit, I was a little cocky and so were the Celtics.

Why not be right? The Celtics were 66-16 and the Atlanta Hawks were 37-45. This should have been a cake walk, right?

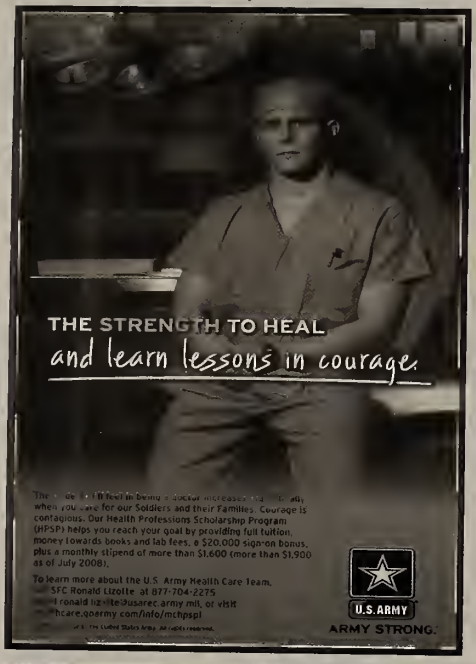
Regardless of records, the Hawks are playing like the Bruins did in the first round. They have a chip on their shoulders and they believe they can beat the Celtics.

I have two concerns, though, with this series so far.

The first being that the shot clock broke in the second-half of game three. The referees decided to let the PA announcer for the Hawks announce the shot clock. It seemed some what fishy to me when the Celtics were on the road the Atlanta PA announcer is given that big of a job.

My second concern was Doc Rivers' coaching in game four. This was a man who went through an 18 game losing streak last year and didn't get fired. I think his job is safe, but if anything made it come into jeopardy again, it would be a first round exit for this Celtics team.

I just hope that when it comes down to a fouth quarter defnesive stop, Doc decides to let Posey or Tony Allen guard Joe Johnson, not Ray Allen.



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Publication Policy

Announcements and ads for on-campus organizations are free of charge, printed as space allows and must be submitted no later than 6 p.m. the Tuesday before anticipated publication date.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed with your year and phone number if you are a student and department if you are a faculty member or administrator. The Voice will print some letters anonomously, but your name must be listed on the original letter (you must note that you do not want your name listed because we must speak to you personally to confirm the letter).

The Editorial Board reserves the right to make grammatical changes, keep the letter as is or not include the letter at all.

Submissions may be dropped off at The Voice office in Ely Campus Center, room C-248, no later than 6 p.m. on the Monday before anticipated publication date.

Owls Clinch Share Of MASCAC Crown

WESTFIELD – The Westfield State baseball team clinched a share of Massachusetts State College Athletics Conference (MASCAC) regular season championship by splitting a doubleheader with Salem State on Saturday, April 26.

The Owls, 19-13-1 overall, dropped the opener 9-0 but came back to win the nightcap, 9-1. Westfield, which won the MASCAC crown outright in 2007, finishes 9-5 in the conference, tying for the top spot with Worcester State. Salem State, 25-13 overall, finishes MASCAC play with an 8-6 record.

Salem and Westfield were both 8-5 in the MASCAC following the Vikings' 9-0 rout in the opener. They tacked on two runs in the fourth and fifth inning and broke it open with a five-run uprising in the sixth.



Westfield State seniors Garrett Kendziera, left, and Ken Vautrin were honored during the final regular season home games.. Picture by Mickey Curtis

Former Westfield State player Rob Coppola (Revere) paced Salem's 11-hit attack, going 3 for 4 with a triple, two RBI and two runs scored. Leadoff batter Bobby Celentano was 3 for 4 and Ryan Kane was 2 for 3 with a double and two RBI. Anthony Palmieri was 2 for 3 with a double and RBI.

Scott McIntrye had two of the Owls' six hits. Winning pitcher Ken Luongo walked two and struck out two in the complete game seven-inning shutout.

In the decisive second game, the Owls ended the drama early by erupting for six runs in the third inning to take a 7-0 lead. Cagney Turner rapped a two-run double, and Justin Parr, Ben Wagner and Mike Trachtenberg had RBI singles.

Westfield out-hit Salem, 9-7. Wagner and second baseman Sean Keane collected two hits in the balanced attack.

Coppola clubbed a double and single for the Vikings.

Winning pitcher Jeff Fields hurled the first four innings, allowing six hits and three walks. Josh Perches and Steve Burndrett pitched well in

Upcoming Home Games

Baseball:
Conference Tournament Games May 3 and 4, times TBA

RBI Leader



Kevin Lyons
24

RBI Leader Softball



Jackie Mason
22

Points Leader W. Lacrosse



Laura Chiricosta
56

Swim captains announced

Chris Flood
Layout Editor

Westfield State swimming and diving head coach Dave Laing announced that juniors Stephanie Cooper (Dedham), Kelly Johnson (Westford) and Cairsten Beanland (Westford) have been selected captains for the 2008-2009 season

"Choosing the three of them was a very simple process because of their leadership qualities, and above all the respect they have from the other swimmers and divers," said Laing.

For Johnson and Beanland this will be the second time they will captain a team together; the best friends and roommates had previously joined forces in high school at Westford Academy.

After graduating from Westford Academy, both decided to attend Westfield State.

"You never see one without the other," said sophomore Lindsey Malboeuf, another Westford Academy graduate who is a standout swimmer for the Owls.

"Their friendship is so strong that I don't think anything could tear them apart," said Cooper. "It takes a true friendship to make two best friends from high school come to college together."

The Westford Captain connection is anxiously looking forward to their senior season at Westfield State.

"Kelly is my closest friend and I am lucky to have her here at school," said Beanland. "I think having such close friends as captains will allow us to truly work together and not hold anything back."

"I am especially excited to be working alongside Cairsten again, in high school we worked so well together and now we're closer than ever," said Johnson. "I can't wait to see how next season plays out."

This past season the Owls finished fifth in the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving championships. It was the second highest finish ever for Westfield State.

At the New England championships, Beanland was seventh in the 1650 freestyle relay; Johnson placed ninth in the 50 yard backstroke, and Cooper was sixth in the 3 meter diving.

Lowrie proves worth

Teresa Dollfuss
Sports Reporter

When third baseman Mike Lowell went on the 15-day disabled list with a sprained thumb, the Red Sox called up rookie Jed Lowrie to fill in. Since the call , Lowrie has done a remarkable job.

In Lowrie's major league debut he drove in three runs to help the Red Sox capture a victory over the Cleveland Indians. His first hit in the majors was a two-run single to put the Red Sox on top, which helped seal their 5-3 victory.

Lowrie also contributed to Boston's 11-3 win against the Texas Rangers, in which David Ortiz hit a grand slam. His double led to the walks of Jacoby Ellsbury and Dustin Pedroia, and then Ortiz's monster grand slam.

Lowrie has also shown versatility in the field. He has played third, shortstop, and second base in the short time that he has been in the big leagues. This versatility is definitely something that the Red Sox can use throughout the rest of the season in case of injuries.

Since coming up from Pawtucket, Lowrie has shown Red Sox Nation that he can hit and field as well as any other infielder in the major leagues. With Mike Lowell returning to the lineup, Lowrie will most likely go back down to Pawtucket to play everyday. However, with his standout performance, the Red Sox may want to find a way to keep him in the big leagues.

Lowrie's production since his call-up has almost given Julio Lugo a run for his money. His main position is shortstop, and with all the errors that Lugo has made in the field this year, Lowrie just might take his spot soon.

This rookie is showing that he deserves to be in the big leagues and that he is capable of producing. He is also a switch hitter, which adds a bonus to the Red Sox lineup. Lowrie is making a big impression on the Red Sox and fans fast.

If Lowrie keeps producing and showing his value, he just might end up with the Red Sox permanently. With Pedroia and second and Lowell at third, the only spot I can see him taking is Julio Lugo's job at shortstop. If Lugo's performance in the field falters, Red Sox fans might see Jed Lowrie playing shortstop.

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Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents website:
www.massupt.org
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Listings updated weekly under EDUCATION JOB SITE link.
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WSC-TV Club introduces the newly updated channel for Westfield State College!!

Channel 99 is the new channel to be updated on campus activities and issues, as well as to see some familiar Westfield faces!!

Fri 05/02	Swimming for Fitness 6:30am-8:00am Ely Pool	Movie - *Definately Maybe* 7:00pm-8:30pm Ely Main Lounge	Brown Bag Bingo 11:00pm-12:30am Ely Main Lounge
Sat 05/03	Baseball MASCAC Championship 7:00am-9:00pm Athletic Fields	Sabbath Services 10:00am-12:30pm Interfaith Center	Comedian Evan Weskell 9:00pm-10:30pm Ely Main Lounge
Sun 05/04	Sunday Mass 12:00pm-1:00pm Interfaith Center	Recreational Swimming 4:30pm-7:30pm Ely Pool	Water Polo 6:00pm-9:00pm Ely Pool
Mon 05/05	Spring Sports Banquet 11:15am-9:30pm Scanlon Banquet Hall	Recreational Swimming 11:00am-1:30pm Ely Pool	Ballroom Dancing 6:00pm-9:00pm P103
Tues 05/06	Recreational Swimming 2:00pm-4:00pm Ely Pool	Rock Wall Open to WSC 6:00pm-9:00pm Woodward	Wind Symphony Performance 7:30pm-10:00pm Dever Auditorium
Wed 05/07	Recreational Swimming 11:30am-1:30pm Ely Pool	Class of 2009 Meeting 6:00pm-8:00pm E SGA Conf. Room	CAB Coffeehouse 8:00pm-11:00PM ELY Main Lounge
Thurs 05/08	Recreational Swimming 12:00pm-1:00pm Ely Pool	Class of 2010 Meeting 4:00pm-6:00pm E SGA Conf. Room	Class of 2008 Meeting 6:30pm-8:00pm E SGA Conf. Room

ATTENTION:

Clubs, Residence Halls and other Campus Groups - The Westfield Word is more than happy to plug your event on our Back Page. Drop off your announcement in our office at Ely 248. Please allow 10 days to ensure publication!